Los Angeles Times

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EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

A KHERSON, Ukraine, resident wades across a road after the Kakhovka dam collapsed overnight. The cause has not been ascertained.

Dam breach floods towns in Ukraine

Kyiv and Moscow trade blame as wide areas are evacuated, crops are endangered.

BY VASILISA STEPANENKO AND SUSIE BLANN

KHERSON, Ukraine — A major dam in southern Ukraine collapsed Tuesday, flooding villages, endangering crops in the country's breadbasket and threatening drinking water supplies as both sides in the war scrambled to evacuate residents and blamed each other for the destruction.

Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric power station, built in the 1950s on the Dnipro River in an area that Moscow has controlled for more than a year. Russian officials, meanwhile, blamed Ukrainian military strikes in the contested area. It was not possible to verify the claims.

Russian and Ukrainian officials used terms including "ecological disaster" and "terrorist act" to refer to the torrent of water gushing through the broken dam and beginning to empty an upstream reservoir that is one of the world's largest.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called it "the largest man-made environmental disaster in Europe in decades." U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called it "another devastating consequence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine."

As homes, streets and businesses flooded, authorities expressed concern about supplies of drinking water and emergency crews evacuated thousands of people from both Ukrainian- and Russian-controlled areas.

In the downstream city of Kherson, angry residents cursed as they tried to save their pets and belongings. A woman who gave her name only as Tetyana waded through thigh-deep water to reach her flooded house and rescue her dogs. They were standing on any dry surface they could find, but one pregnant dog was missing. "It's a nightmare," Tetyana kept repeating, declining to give her full name.

Both Russian and Ukrainian authorities brought in trains and buses for residents. About 25,000 people in Russian-controlled areas and 17,000 in Ukrainian-held territory should be evacuated,

[See **Ukraine,** A4]

Far from home, migrants get a helping hand in Sacramento

With clothing, food and shelter, church groups aid people flown to California on chartered flights arranged by Florida officials, which many in this state call a political stunt

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

SACRAMENTO — On the same day that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration took responsibility for sending dozens of migrants seeking asylum to California, the volunteers and organizers inside the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral of Sacramento refused to say the Republican politician's name.

Instead, they wanted to talk about the 36 men and women they've cared for this week, who they say were left exhausted, confused and afraid at the doorstep of a local church in what California officials have called a political stunt.

Gabby Trejo, executive director of Sacramento Area Congregations Together, said the migrants she took to church with her on Sunday — some who had walked thousands of miles over the course of several months from Venezuela to the U.S. — reached into their pockets to offer a dollar for the collection plate.

"I said, no, you need it more than our church does today. But they didn't care. They still put it in the plate," Trejo said. "In that moment, our new neighbors showed me what it means for them to also be able to contribute to our community."

Cecila Flores, who has supported the migrants since the first group arrived by plane on Friday, wiped away tears at a news conference on Tuesday.

In their 20s and 30s, most of the

[See **Migrants,** A12]

COMMENTARY

In mulligan, golf leagues opt to merge

But now comes fallout after the PGA Tour decides to unite with Saudi-backed LIV.

BY SAM FARMER

What a landmark day for golf. Everybody is under one big umbrella. The wedge is gone.

The PGA Tour and LIV Golf have beaten their raised four-irons into plowshares, dropped their lawsuits and are happily moving forward arm in arm.

"After two years of disruption and distraction, this is a historic day for the game we all know and love," said PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, revealing the stunning news Tuesday that the battling leagues — as well as the DP World Tour (also known as the European Tour) — are merging to form a yet-unnamed, for-profit entity with funding from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

But what about the days to come? We've seen the celebration. Now comes the fallout.

This hasn't been just "disruption and distraction." The Saudi-backed LIV Golf Invitational Series was painted, maybe rightly so, as a cataclysmic threat to the game. It pitted player against player — the loy-

[See **Golf,** A12]

Turnabout is fairway play

PGA merger with LIV Golf proves it never was about principle, just money, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, B10**

ROB CARR Getty Images

PHIL MICKELSON, the face of LIV Golf, was gleeful, but many PGA Tour players seemed blindsided.

L.A. Unified revises lauded teaching program

Supt. Carvalho says his intervention plan is more equitable and would cost far less.

BY HOWARD BLUME

Los Angeles Unified School District Supt. Alberto Carvalho on Tuesday outlined a shift to a key educational intervention program that will expand its focus beyond helping elementary students who are struggling with reading and math to reaching older students and strengthening the skills of teachers.

Carvalho and his senior staff detailed the plan in public for the first time after facing criticism for quietly beginning to dismantle the flagship initiative of his predecessor, Austin Beutner, earlier this year. That program, known as Primary Promise, had been lauded by district officials as recently as 14 months ago.

Board member Nick Melvoin said at Tuesday's school board meeting that the public could not be blamed for feeling "whiplash" over a program that was first touted, then criticized.

Board member Kelly Gonez said she has seen Primary Promise work effectively at schools and pressed senior officials for specifics on staffing levels under the new academic framework.

Administrators found themselves making the difficult point that they are expanding services but cutting costs at the same time.

They noted that the revamped approach, known as the Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Model, will reach middle school students instead of stopping at third grade. They ultimately acknowledged that fewer elementary schools would have intervention services but insisted that overall services to students of all ages would improve.

Officials set the cost of next year's effort at about $100 million, compared with $134 million this year and about $200 million if Beutner's plan to reach every elementary school with Primary Promise had been carried out. The new plan also will rely on training classroom instructors in methods the intervention specialists have used.

Carvalho said he had to find some way to cut costs to preserve such services.

The district has to deal with about 2,100 full-time positions, including those in Primary Promise, that will no longer be funded by September 2024 because state

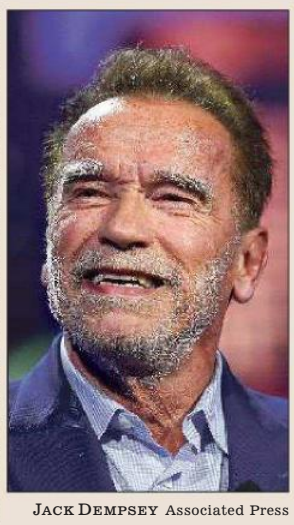
[See **L.A. Unified,** A7]

Efforts to boost LGBTQ+ rights
L.A. County leaders pass measures to help a community under attack across the U.S. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Medical debt in L.A. County
Data show that 1 in 10 residents face the burden. Even the insured have trouble paying. **BUSINESS, A8**

Ex-Gov. 'Arnold' talks candidly
Schwarzenegger reflects on successes and failures in a new Netflix docuseries. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather
Early low clouds.
L.A. Basin: 72/57. **B6**



JACK DEMPSEY Associated Press

IN THE series, Arnold Schwarzenegger addressed groping claims.

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ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

How two Uber drivers won millions for state's gig workers

BRIAN MERCHANT

Pablo Gomez has been a full-time Uber driver since 2019. He takes pride in knowing how to maximize his earnings on each trip he takes. That means knowing the right times to drive, which rides to accept and which to pass up — and it also means knowing the letter of the law that governs his trade. In particular, it means knowing Proposition 22, the controversial ballot measure that passed in 2020 and became law in 2021, inside and out.

For the gig drivers of California, Gomez's eagle-eyed attention to detail, paired with a fellow driver's fighting spirit, resulted in a windfall that could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Proposition 22, you might recall, overrode part of AB 5, a law that classified gig workers as employees, entitling them to benefits and protections. The ballot measure instead carved out app-based gig workers as independent contractors and put in place a raft of better-than-nothing half measures: Instead of full healthcare coverage, gig workers got a healthcare subsidy, if they worked enough hours to qualify. Instead of a minimum wage, drivers got a minimum earnings guarantee — but only for "engaged" miles, not time spent between rides.

It's a long and confusing law, but Gomez studied it when it passed and took note of one of its more arcane benefits: a provision that grants drivers making the bare minimum a small reimbursement for vehicle expenses. Starting in 2021, gig app companies were to pay drivers 30 cents per mile driven on the job. But Proposition 22 also

[See **Merchant,** A9]

VISIT…

Normandy honors vets on D-day's anniversary

Events in France mark 79 years since WWII assault to free Europe. For many, Ukraine's fight is front of mind.

By Sylvie Corbet and Tara Copp

Thomas Padilla Associated Press

THE AMERICAN CEMETERY overlooking France's Omaha Beach drew dignitaries, current and former U.S. troops and other visitors on Tuesday for a ceremony and individual reflections on D-day's sacrifices.

ON OMAHA BEACH, France — An overwhelming sound of gunfire and men's screams. That's how World War II veteran Marie Scott described D-day as Tuesday's ceremonies got underway in honor of those who fought for freedom in the largest naval, air and land operation in history.

This year's tribute to the young soldiers who died in Normandy also reminds veterans, officials and visitors of what Ukraine faces today.

On Tuesday, the whistling sound of the wind accompanied many reenactors who came to Omaha Beach at dawn to mark the 79th anniversary of the assault that led to the liberation of France and Western Europe from Nazi control. Some brought flowers; others waved American flags.

Scott lived it all through her ears. She was just 17 when she was posted as a communication operator in Portsmouth, England. Her job was to pass on messages between men on the ground and U.S. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and senior officers who were supervising the operation.

"I was in the war. I could hear gunfire, machine guns, bombing aircraft, men screaming, shouting, men giving orders," she recalled.

"After a few moments of horror, I realized what was happening ... and I thought, 'Well, you know, there's no time for horror. You've got a job to do, so get on with it.' Which is what I did."

Now about to turn 97, Scott said D-day was a "pivotal point" in her life.

"As a noncombatant, I was still in the war, and I realized the enormity of war," she said. "People were dying in that moment."

Scott said she was disgusted that another war is now raging on the European continent after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"For me, war should only be undertaken if it's absolutely [necessary] — if there's no other way of solving the problem," she said. "It's an atrocity."

British veteran Mervyn Kersh, who landed on Gold Beach on D-day, said Western allies should send maximum military aid to Ukraine because "the only way to stay free is to be strong."

Kersh, 98, added: "I'm still in the reserve; I'm waiting to go to Ukraine now."

Tuesday's events included a ceremony in Colleville-sur-Mer, overlooking Omaha Beach, at the American Cemetery that is home to the graves of 9,386 U.S. troops, most of whom lost their lives in the D-day landings and ensuing operations. An additional 1,557 names are inscribed on the Walls of the Missing, though some of their bodies have since been recovered and identified.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, speaking before more than 40 World War II veterans and a crowd of visitors, said that "it is our duty to defend ... the principles for which the Allies fought. ... We seek a world where civilians are safe from ravages of a war, [and] sovereignty and territorial integrity are respected."

He paid tribute to "brave young men and women from Ukraine who are learning how to fight for their lives and for their country. ... Today, I am more determined than ever to stand by them for as long as it takes."

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark A. Milley also took part in the American Cemetery commemoration.

The Normandy celebrations were a chance for Milley to linger with troops who consider him one of their own as he winds down his own four-decade military career. An Army general, he held commands in the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division, both of which see Normandy's fields, towns and causeways as hallowed ground.

"For me, being among soldiers is home," said Milley, who begins his 44th year of military service Saturday. He is scheduled to retire at the end of September as his term leading the Joint Chiefs of Staff ends.

Hundreds of current soldiers from both units were there, some on leave with beers in hand, others jumping out of aircraft as their predecessors did 79 years ago.

This was Milley's last Normandy visit as their top commander. As he spoke at ceremonies, attended commemorative soccer matches and walked through Sainte-Mere-Eglise — known as the first town to be liberated from Nazi occupation — he stopped to talk and give commemorative coins to the troops.

Other events included an international ceremony at the nearby British Normandy Memorial, with officials from Germany and the nine principal Allied nations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Britain, the Netherlands, Poland, Norway and the United States.

French President Emmanuel Macron joined a separate ceremony on Tuesday that was attended by 100-year-old Leon Gauthier, the last surviving member of the Kieffer commando — an elite French unit that was among the first waves of soldiers to land in Normandy.

Many visitors came to the American Cemetery ahead of Tuesday's ceremonies to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives.

Jean-Philippe Bertrand of Marseille, France, walked through the lines of white crosses Monday. "It's unimaginable to make such a sacrifice for my freedom, for my son's freedom," he said.

"You hear about it on the news and you see the pictures. But once you're here and you see the reality and the sacrifice that has been made for our beautiful country — I wanted to make the trip once in my life to thank all these people to whom we owe so much," he added.

German professor Andreas Fuchs, who teaches French in Berlin, brought students ages 10 to 12 to Normandy via an exchange program.

"It's very important for children to have a moment in their lives to understand the liberation of Europe. And to know what peace has been for 80 years," he said.

Corbet and Copp write for the Associated Press.

Panama unveils plan to halt migrant-smuggling through perilous gap

The number of those risking the Darien jungle trek — nearly 250,000 last year — continues to rise.

By Juan Zamorano and Christopher Sherman

NICANOR, Panama — Panama has unveiled a new effort to control illegal migration through the treacherous Darien Gap that spans its eastern border with Colombia.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants have risked the dangerous trek through the jungle in recent years, and the flow this year is on a record pace. Most of those who cross are trying to reach the United States.

In April, as the U.S. prepared to lift pandemic-related restrictions that had allowed authorities to turn back asylum seekers at the border, it announced together with Panama and Colombia increased efforts in the largely lawless Darien Gap.

Panama's "Shield" campaign, announced Friday, is the first public display of those new efforts.

What is the Darien Gap?

The Darien Gap earned its name because it is the break in the Pan-American Highway connecting South and North America. Darien is the name of Panama's easternmost province, which abuts Colombia.

It is composed of dense, roadless jungle, mountains and fast-flowing rivers. Migrants who have made the crossing regularly report being robbed and sexually assaulted and seeing bodies of others who did not survive along the way. Earlier this week, three suspected bandits died in a shootout with border police in Darien.

The crossing from Colombia can take a few days to more than a week.

How many people are crossing?

Last year, nearly 250,000 people crossed the Darien Gap, nearly double the 133,000 who crossed in 2021, and a new record. That increase was driven largely by Venezuelans, who accounted for some 60% of the migrants crossing there last year.

In April, the United Nations warned that the unprecedented number of crossings so far in 2023 suggested that some 400,000 migrants could cross this year. According to government data, nearly 170,000 migrants crossed the Darien in the first four months of the year, five times the number from the same period last year.

In early May, before the U.S. lifted the pandemic-era Title 42 asylum restrictions, Panamanian officials at the edge of the jungle registered the arrival of some 2,000 migrants in one day. Venezuelans continue to be the largest group crossing, but there are also Haitians, Chinese and Ecuadoreans, among others.

This week, Panamanian authorities reported that, with the arrival of the rainy season and swollen rivers, on one day about 790 migrants were registered. Expanded legal pathways offered by the U.S. and more punitive policies against those who try to enter the U.S. illegally also factor into migrants' decision-making.

What is Panama's "Shield" campaign?

On Friday, Panamanian security authorities announced that they would dedicate some 1,200 immigration agents, border police and members of the naval air service to what they said would be an effort by air, land and sea to take on organized criminal groups smuggling migrants, drugs and guns through the Darien jungle.

There will be more aerial patrols with U.S.-donated helicopters and more specialized border police units to root out gangs operating along the shared border with Colombia. It is the first public sign of the coordinated efforts promised by Panama, Colombia and the United States in April.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas met then with the foreign ministers of Panama and Colombia in Panama City.

"Recognizing our shared interest and responsibility to prevent the risk to human life, disrupt transnational criminal organizations, and preserve the vital rainforest, the governments of Panama, Colombia, and the United States intend to carry out a two-month coordinated campaign to address the serious humanitarian situation in the Darien," the governments said in a statement.

Panama is framing the effort to gain control of its border as a national security issue targeting organized crime groups. For the migrants making the crossing, it plans an informational campaign to combat the misinformation peddled by smugglers.

What challenges do authorities face in Darien?

It will not be easy for authorities to stem the flow of migrants through the Darien Gap. The route has become well established, with enterprising locals, especially on the Colombian side, selling gear — tents, boots, food and even porter service. Additionally, for those with the resources, there are smugglers who offer a more personalized, guided crossing.

Some of Colombia's armed groups, principally the Gulf Clan, are involved in migrant smuggling and run very sophisticated operations.

Oriel Ortega, director of Panama's border police, said Friday that its intelligence indicated that the Gulf Clan was the organization most involved in smuggling migrants through the Darien.

Panamanian Security Minister Juan Manuel Pino said authorities have identified three main smuggling sea routes and two land routes between Colombia and Panama and will focus resources in those areas.

Zamorano and Sherman write for the Associated Press.

Hiltzik column

Michael Hiltzik has the day off. His column will be back next week.

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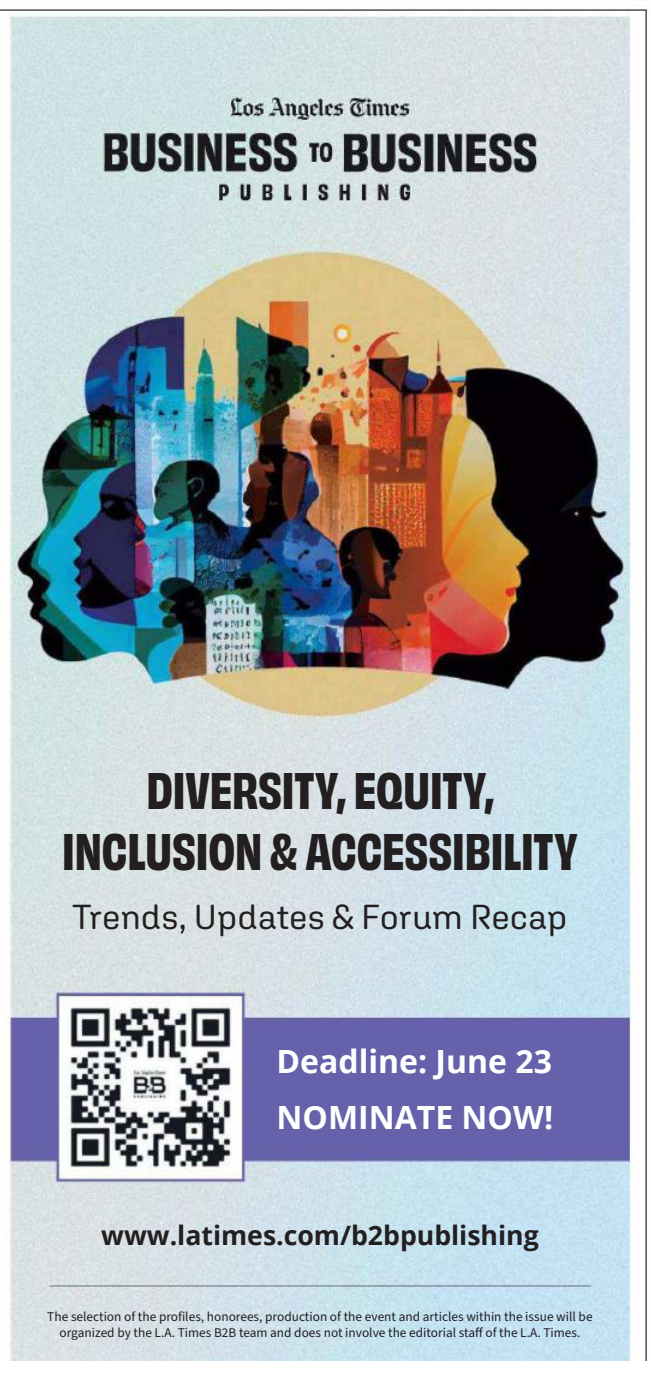
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Iran says new missile is hypersonic

Projectile is capable of flying at 15 times the speed of sound, aerospace chief says, but he offers no proof.

By Jon Gambrell

DUBAI — Iran claimed Tuesday to have developed a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 15 times the speed of sound, adding a weapon to its arsenal as tensions remain high with the U.S. over Tehran's nuclear program.

The missile — called Fattah, or Conqueror in Persian — was unveiled even as Iran said it would reopen diplomatic posts in Saudi Arabia after reaching a detente with the oil-rich kingdom after years of conflict.

The tightly choreographed unveiling of the missile on Iranian state television apparently sought to show that Tehran's hardline government can still deploy arms against its enemies across much of the Middle East.

"Today we feel that the deterrent power has been formed," Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said at the event. "This power is an anchor of lasting security and peace for the regional countries."

Hossein Zohrevand Tasnim News Agency

A DISPLAY focused on the new Fattah — or Conqueror — missile is seen at a ceremony in Tehran.

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard's aerospace program, unveiled what appeared to be a model of the missile. Hajizadeh said the missile had a range of up to 870 miles.

That's about midrange for Iran's expansive ballistic missile arsenal, which the Revolutionary Guard has built up over the years as Western sanctions largely prevent it from accessing advanced weaponry.

"There exists no system that can rival or counter this missile," Hajizadeh said.

That claim, however, depends on how maneuverable the missile is. Ballistic missiles fly on a trajectory in which antimissile systems like the Patriot can anticipate their path and intercept them. Tuesday's event showed what appeared to be a movable nozzle for the Fattah, which could allow it to change trajectories in flight.

The more irregular the missile's flight path, the more difficult it becomes to intercept.

Iranian officials did not release footage of a Fattah successfully launching and then striking a target. Hajizadeh later said that there had been a ground test of the missile's engine.

A ground test involves a rocket motor being put on a stand and fired to check its abilities. Launching a missile with that rocket motor is much more complex.

Hypersonic weapons, which fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound, could pose crucial challenges to missile defense systems because of their speed and maneuverability. Iran described the Fattah as able to reach Mach 15 — which is 15 times the speed of sound.

China is believed to be pursuing such weapons, as is the United States. Russia claims to already be fielding the weapons and has said it used them on the battlefield in Ukraine. However, speed and maneuverability do not guarantee that the missile will successfully strike a target. Ukraine's air force in May said it shot down a Russian hypersonic Kinzhal missile with a Patriot battery.

Gulf Arab countries allied with the U.S. widely use the Patriot missile system in the region. Israel, Iran's main rival in the Mideast, also has its own robust air defenses.

In November, Hajizadeh initially said Iran had developed a hypersonic missile, without offering evidence. That claim came during the nationwide protests that followed the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the country's morality police.

Tuesday's announcement came as U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken is to begin a visit to Saudi Arabia.

No leniency, family of victim tells court

Sentencing nears for man who admitted killing Caltech grad in Sydney in 1988.

Associated Press

SYDNEY — A man who admitted killing a Caltech graduate by punching him at a gay meeting place on a Sydney cliff top in 1988, causing him to fall to his death, deserves no leniency and should receive the lengthiest prison sentence possible, the victim's brother said Tuesday.

Scott Phillip White, 52, appeared in the New South Wales state Supreme Court for a sentencing hearing after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the death of mathematician Scott Johnson. White had pleaded guilty to murder last year but changed his mind and had that conviction overturned on appeal.

Johnson's Boston-based older brother, Steve Johnson, said White had lost the family's sympathy by withdrawing his confession to murder.

In a victim impact statement read in court, Johnson said he and his wife, Rosemary, had "felt some compassion because of [White's] generous plea. Today I have no sympathy."

Any gratitude the family felt was undone after White's conviction and prison sentence were overturned on appeal, he told reporters after the hearing.

"So I am hoping the judge will give him the stiffest sentence he possibly can," Steve Johnson said.

Manslaughter carries a maximum sentence of 25 years.

White's decision to flee the scene without calling police had prolonged the family's grief and loss for decades, Johnson said.

"He didn't check on Scott. He didn't call for help. He notified no one. He simply let Scott die," Johnson said.

In her statement, Rosemary Johnson spoke of her sweet, kind and gentle brother-in-law.

"You are loved, you are missed, your life mattered, and you have not been forgotten," she said.

In the heat of an argument on Dec. 10, 1988, White said, he threw a punch at Scott Johnson, 27, causing him to stagger backward and fall to his death over a cliff at North Head, which was known at the time to be a meeting place for gay men.

Los Angeles-born Scott Johnson's death was initially called a suicide, but his family pressed for further investigation. Almost three decades passed before New South Wales police began investigating his death as a suspected anti-gay hate crime.

Prosecutor Brett Hatfield conceded that the judge overseeing the new sentence could find insufficient evidence to show that White was motivated to attack Johnson because of Johnson's sexuality. However, Hatfield still sought a higher jail sentence, saying it was an unprovoked attack on a vulnerable individual who was naked in a remote location.

"It's a serious example of manslaughter entailing a significant degree of criminality," Hatfield said.

White's lawyer, Tim Game, urged leniency because of his client's cognitive difficulties at the time of the crime as well as his dysfunctional background.

"He had just become an adult, and his life was chaotic and a terrible mess," Game said.

White will be sentenced Thursday. He had been sentenced to more than 12 years in prison for murder before that conviction was overturned.

Mexico officials lower alert level for volcano

Popocatepetl has spewed gas and ash for more than two weeks.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico on Tuesday lowered the alert level on the Popocatepetl volcano after more than two weeks of gas and ash eruptions.

The 17,797-foot mountain just 45 miles southeast of Mexico City, known affectionately as "El Popo," had spread ash over towns downwind for days and spurred authorities to dust off their evacuation plans.

Some 25 million people live within 60 miles of its crater. But ultimately no evacuations were ordered, and experts said the emissions from the increased activity actually made a catastrophic eruption less likely.

National Civil Defense Coordinator Laura Velázquez lowered the alert level back to yellow phase 2 on Tuesday on the recommendation of a scientific advisory panel, according to a statement from the government. It had been at yellow phase 3, just a notch below a red alert on the stoplight-style scale.

Scientists said they had observed a slight decrease in activity, including less ash falling and fewer incandescent rocks shooting into the air.

The frequency and intensity of its exhalations have decreased.

Velázquez had raised the alert level to yellow phase 3 on May 21.

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Ukraine, Russia trade blame over dam collapse

[**Ukraine,** from A1]
Ukraine's deputy chief prosecutor Viktoriia Lytvynova said on Ukrainian television. Neither side reported any deaths or injuries.

A satellite photo Tuesday morning by Planet Labs analyzed by the Associated Press showed a large portion of the dam's wall — more than 1,900 feet — missing.

The dam break, long feared by both sides, added a perilous new dimension to Russia's war in Ukraine, now in its 16th month, as Ukrainian forces were widely seen to be moving forward with a long-anticipated counteroffensive in patches along more than 600 miles of front line in the east and south of Ukraine.

It was not immediately clear whether either side stood to gain from the damage to the dam, and its collapse might have resulted from gradual degradation. Both Russian-controlled and Ukrainian-held lands are at risk of flooding.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu accused Ukraine of destroying the dam to prevent potential Russian attacks in the Kherson region after what he said was a failed Ukrainian counteroffensive in recent days. He claimed that Ukraine had lost 3,715 troops and 52 tanks since Sunday and, in a rare acknowledgment of Russia's own losses, said 71 Russian troops had been killed and 210 wounded. Ukraine followed its standard practice of not commenting on its casualties.

Zelensky told reporters his government had information about Russia mining the dam last year, so "there may come a moment when an explosion occurs." Other Ukrainian officials alleged that Russia blew up the dam to hamper Kyiv's counteroffensive, even though observers note that crossing the broad Dnipro River for an assault would be extremely challenging. Other sectors of the front line are more likely avenues of attack for Ukraine, analysts say.

Even so, Nigel Gould-Davies, a senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, called the alleged Russian destruction of the dam "a profoundly defensive measure" that betrayed a "lack of confidence in Russia's longer-term prospects" in the war.

Experts have previously said the dam structure was suffering from disrepair, which could also have led to the breach. David Helms, a retired U.S. scientist who has monitored the reservoir since the start of the war, said it wasn't clear whether the damage was deliberate or caused by simple neglect from Russian forces occupying the facility.

But he also noted a Russian history of attacking dams.

Underscoring the global repercussions, wheat prices jumped 3% on commodities markets after the collapse. Ukraine and Russia are key global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food to Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia.

Authorities, experts and residents have expressed concern for months about water flows through — and over — the Kakhovka dam. After heavy rains and snowmelt last month, water rose beyond normal levels, flooding nearby villages. Satellite images showed water washing over damaged sluice gates.

Zelensky alleged Russian forces set off a blast inside the dam structure at 2:50 a.m. Tuesday and said about 80 settlements were in danger.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov alleged that it was "a deliberate act of sabotage by the Ukrainian side ... aimed at cutting water supplies to Crimea."

White House National Security Council spokesman John F. Kirby told reporters the U.S. "cannot say conclusively what happened" and declined to assess the impact on Ukraine's counteroffensive.

At an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council later in the day, the U.S. deputy ambassador offered no clarity about what Washington sees as the cause of the dam's collapse, while the Russian and Ukrainian ambassadors traded blame.

Both sides warned of a looming environmental disaster from polluted waters partly caused by oil leaking from the dam's machinery and farmland deprived of irrigation.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry called for residents of 10 villages on the river's right bank and parts of the city of Kherson to gather essential documents and pets, turn off appliances and leave.

U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths told the Security Council that at least 40 settlements in the Kherson region were already flooded.

The Russian-installed mayor of occupied Nova Kakhovka, Vladimir Leontyev, said the city was being evacuated.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's biggest, relies in large part on water from the dam's now-emptying reservoir. The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement that there was "no immediate risk to the safety of the plant," whose six reactors have been shut down for months but still require water for cooling.

It said the rate of the drop in the dam's reservoir level increased from 2 inches to 3.5 inches an hour and could be depleted in a couple of days. The plant has other sources of water that can last for months, according to the IAEA.

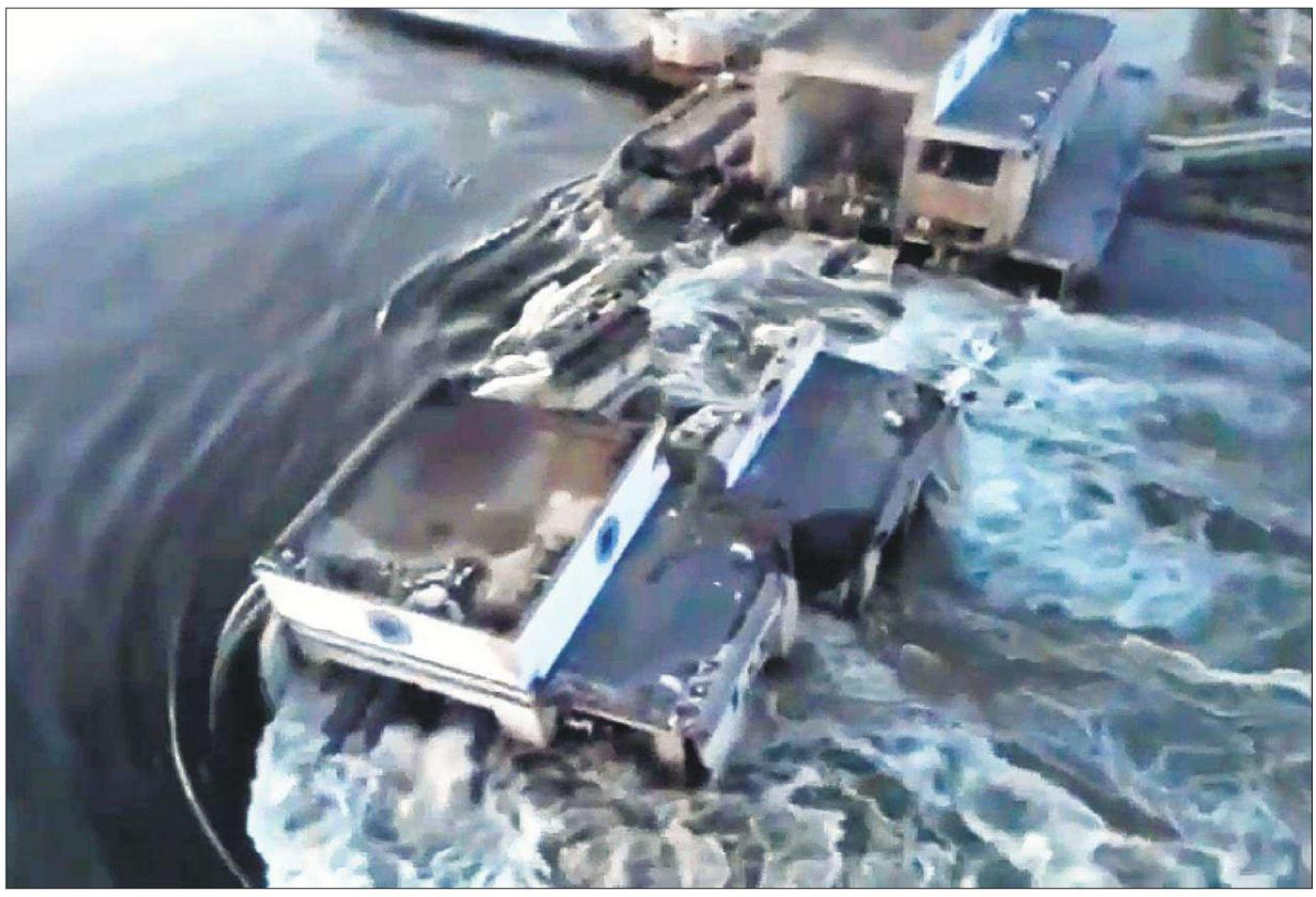
Ukrainian authorities have previously warned that the dam's failure could unleash a volume of water estimated as nearly equivalent to that of the Great Salt Lake in the United States.

Mykhailo Podolyak, a senior advisor to Zelensky, said that "a global ecological disaster is playing out now ... and thousands of animals and ecosystems will be destroyed in the next few hours."

The incident also drew international outrage, including from German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who said the "outrageous act ... demonstrates once again the brutality of Russia's war in Ukraine."

Ukraine controls five of the six dams along the Dnipro River, which runs from its northern border with Belarus down to the Black Sea and is crucial for the entire country's drinking water and power supply and that of Russian-occupied Crimea.

Stepanenko and Blann write for the Associated Press.



Ukrainian Presidential Office

WATER rushes through a break in the Kakhovka dam in an image taken from video. The dam is on the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine.

> 'A global ecological disaster is playing out now ... and thousands of animals and ecosystems will be destroyed.'
>
> — Mykhailo Podolyak, senior advisor to Zelensky

The breach: What's at stake, who might benefit and who will suffer?

The dam powered and irrigated a large area, including Crimea. Residents and wildlife have lost their homes.

By Jamey Keaten

KYIV, Ukraine — The rupture of the dam that impounds Ukraine's largest reservoir released a torrent of water Tuesday, raising fears of widespread damage and flooding in areas where tens of thousands of people live.

It's unclear what caused the breach in the Kakhovka dam, which was already damaged by Russia's war in Ukraine. The dam holds back the Dnipro River — a long stretch of which has become a front line of the war — in a Russian-occupied area in the south.

Ukraine accused Russian forces of blowing up the facility, while Russian officials blamed Ukrainian military strikes.

Why is the dam important?

The 98-foot-high dam and associated hydroelectric power station are about 44 miles east of the city of Kherson — a flashpoint of the conflict in a region that Russia has claimed to have annexed but does not fully control.

Together with the power station, the dam helps provide electricity, irrigation and drinking water to a wide swath of southern Ukraine, including the Crimean peninsula, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

Ukraine's vast agricultural heartland, which is partially fed by the Dnipro, is crucial to worldwide supplies of grain, sunflower oil and other foodstuffs. Global wheat and corn prices rose Tuesday on concerns that production might be disrupted.

The dam — one of the world's biggest in terms of reservoir capacity — retained a volume of water nearly equivalent to that of the Great Salt Lake in the United States. The river waters supply cooling systems at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, where fighting has repeatedly raised fears of catastrophic accidents.

What has happened to the dam during the war?

Russia has controlled the dam since the early days of the war, and Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of shelling it. Ukraine said the troops occupying it detonated explosives last fall that damaged three sluice gates, which help regulate water levels. Signs of damage to the gates were evident in late May.

Even before the devastation wrought by Tuesday's breach, hydropower generation was at a fraction of peak levels.

Ukrainian officials and independent experts say Russian forces have failed to maintain the dam — built in the 1950s — either deliberately or through neglect.

Earlier this year, water levels in the reservoir were so low that many across Ukraine and beyond feared a meltdown at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia plant. Since mid-February, the water level has steadily increased, according to data from Theia, a French provider of geospatial analysis.

The Ukrainian company that manages the dam and power plant estimates that it will take about four days for the reservoir to reach equilibrium and stop discharging massive amounts of water.

Who and what is at risk?

As floodwaters swelled, both Russian and Ukrainian authorities ordered evacuations from at least 80 towns and villages at risk on both sides of the river, though neither side reported any deaths.

Officials said about 22,000 people live in places at risk of flooding in the Russian-controlled areas, while 16,000 live in the most critical zone in Ukrainian-held territory.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at least 16,000 people have already lost their homes, and the U.N.'s humanitarian aid coordinator said efforts are underway to provide water, money, and legal and emotional support to those affected.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said there is a risk of flooding at energy facilities in the Kherson region. Nearly 12,000 households in the city of Kherson have already been left without electricity, and water supplies are also at risk.

Water levels dropped upstream. At the Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's largest, the Ukrainian operator and the U.N. atomic energy agency said there was no immediate risk to safety.

Experts warned about the possibility of an environmental disaster for wildlife and ecosystems in Ukraine and beyond.

The biggest impact of the breach is likely to be upstream, said Mark Mulligan, a professor of physical and environmental geography at King's College London and co-leader of the Global Dam Watch, a project that monitors dams and reservoirs.

"This huge reservoir is going to drain down and the shallows upstream are going to dry out," causing significant ecological damage to aquatic vegetation and wildlife that have relied on the water for seven decades, he said.

The rapid flow of freshwater into the Black Sea could also damage fisheries and the wider ecology of the northwest part of the sea, he said.

What does it mean for the war?

Ukrainian officials said the Russians destroyed the dam to prevent Ukraine from launching a counteroffensive in the area, while Russian officials said Ukraine destroyed the dam to prevent a potential Russian attack on the western bank.

Either way, the destruction of the dam severs a key crossing of the country's most important river. The dam served as a bridge, enabling vehicles to pass over; its destruction also unleashed torrents of water, making it harder to cross the river by other means.

Since last fall, the lower portion of the Dnipro has made up an important part of the front line that stretches more than 620 miles.

The crossing repeatedly came under rocket fire as Ukrainian forces led a successful counteroffensive in November that drove Russian forces back across the Dnipro.

Ukraine's military has used groups of scouts to try to gain control of small islands near the Russia-controlled eastern bank and areas in the river's delta. But experts say a broader offensive would involve major risks and logistical challenges.

Crossing the wide river was always seen as a daunting task for the Ukrainian military. Most observers expected it to launch a counteroffensive elsewhere.

Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said that the flooding would make crossing the river even more difficult, noting that it would affect the minefields on the Russian-controlled eastern bank. "Minefields were flooded, mines will be washed off and no one knows where they will surface," he said.

Keaten writes for the Associated Press.

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THE NATION

Biden faces pressure to improve Latino outreach

Missteps with the key voting bloc have some activists worried over his approach for 2024.

By Will Weissert and Adriana Gomez Licon

Tom Williams CQ-Roll Call

A TRILIGUAL SIGN points voters to the midterm election polls in Washington's Capitol Hill neighborhood.

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Joe Biden vowed in 2020 to work "like the devil" to energize Latino voters, and flew to Florida seven weeks before election day to do just that. But as he stepped to the podium at a Hispanic Heritage Month event near Disney World, Biden declared, "I just have one thing to say," and used his phone to play part of the song "Despacito."

It was meant to salute the singer of the reggaeton hit, Luis Fonsi, who had introduced Biden. Still, the gesture triggered online backlash from some Latinos, who saw it as playing to belittling stereotypes — proof that while outreach is important, failing to strike the right tone can undermine it.

"The details actually matter for people, because it's respecting their background, respecting their history, respecting their culture," said Grecia Lima, national political director of the progressive activist group Community Change Action.

President Biden isn't the first politician to strike a sour note while trying to connect across cultural lines. But the blowback he encountered illustrates a bigger challenge he faces as he seeks a second term.

Latino voters, long a core constituency for Democrats, have reliably supported them based on substantive matters of policy, from healthcare to managing the economy, according to Pew Research Center surveys. But recent signs that Republicans have made inroads with these voters is adding to the sense that Democrats must work to maintain their advantage.

Democratic candidates won 57% of the Hispanic vote in last year's midterm election — down from the 63% of Hispanic voters Biden won in 2020 and the 66% who supported the party in 2018, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the national electorate.

Meanwhile, 39% of Hispanic voters backed Republicans last year, a tick up from the 35% who supported former President Trump's reelection bid.

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, a Republican who is considering a White House run, said Democrats had hurt themselves by adopting terms like Latinx, a gender-neutral alternative to "Latino" and "Latina."

"They've created a tremendous opportunity for Republicans," Suarez said.

Democrats believed that harsh rhetoric from Republicans during and after the presidency of Trump — who at his campaign launch in 2015 declared immigrants from Mexico to be rapists and criminals — would give them a boost. Instead, even modest swings toward the GOP could mean millions more Republican votes next year. Hispanic people made up 62% of total growth in the nation's eligible voters between 2018 and last year's election, according to Pew.

"Are they behind?" asked Javier Palomarez, chief executive of the United States Hispanic Business Council. "Yes."

Democratic strategist Maria Cardona said nearly every election cycle features "activists with their hair on fire: 'The campaign's not doing enough, we're not hearing from enough people.' " She said Biden's campaign was neutralizing those perceptions with "historic strides and investments" in Latino voter mobilization.

Biden supporters also say that substantive issues, rather than incidents like him playing "Despacito," are what resonate with Latino voters.

"President Biden has spent his first two years in office focusing on the issues facing many Latino families — lowering healthcare costs, creating good-paying jobs, getting our small businesses and schools reopened, and fighting gun violence in our communities," Kevin Munoz, a spokesperson for Biden's reelection campaign, said in a statement.

Still, "Despacito" wasn't the Biden camp's only misstep.

First Lady Jill Biden flubbed the pronunciation of the rallying cry "*Sí se puede*" in a speech in California last spring. Then, in Texas last summer, she said the Latino community was as "unique as breakfast tacos here in San Antonio," prompting another backlash and an apology from her office.

Matt Barreto, who does polling for the White House and the Democratic National Committee, said Latino outreach programs have intensified.

"We've been learning our lessons, and constantly improving," he said.

Democrats were hindered in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic limited on-the-ground organizing. But after those efforts resumed in 2022, Democrats lost key House races in some heavily Latino areas.

The Latino shift toward Republicans was particularly pronounced in Florida, where over half of Latino voters backed Gov. Ron DeSantis, now a candidate for the GOP presidential nomination.

In Florida's Broward County, still a Democratic stronghold, Richard Ramunno, a 31-year-old business owner of Argentine and Chilean background, remembered the "Despacito" episode, but laughed it off.

He said he worries more about policy decisions that Republicans are making at the state level, including the Parental Rights in Education law signed by DeSantis, which makes it easier to challenge schools' books over their content.

"The laws they are passing are very conservative right now," he said. "Books are being removed from schools."

Melissa Morales, founder of Somos PAC, which supported last year's reelection of Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, the first Latina elected to the Senate, said the midterms showed the importance of economic policies like affordable housing and healthcare — as opposed to GOP-led culture war issues.

"The thing that really emerged for us in 2022 was that Latinos were so solutions-oriented," she said.

Lima, of Community Change Action, said the economy is a top motivator for Latino voters, and that Biden can point to a major public works package and increased federal spending on healthcare, social services and green energy.

But she called those "down payments" and said Latino voters will expect Democrats "to make good" on policies that help the economy work better for them.

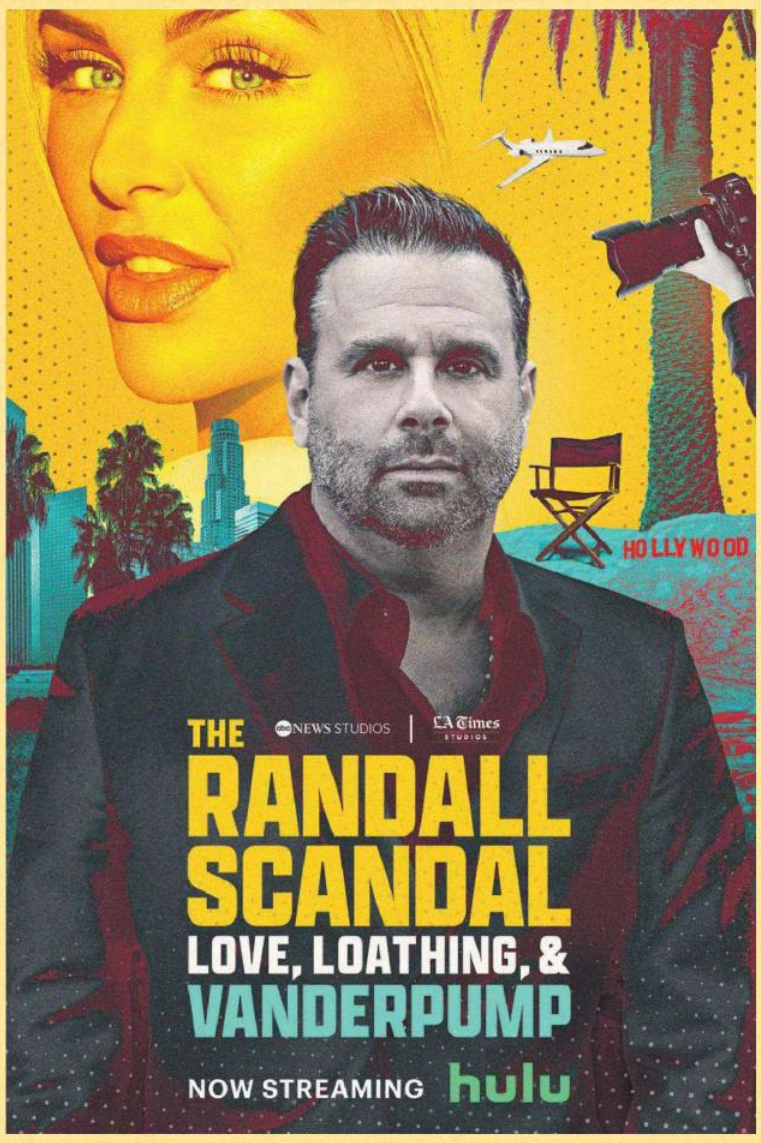
Many activists who have criticized Biden and other Democrats praised him for selecting Julie Chavez Rodriguez, granddaughter of civil rights icon Julio Cesar Chavez, to manage his reelection campaign.

In a memo detailing 2024 strategy, which the Biden campaign produced in English and Spanish, Rodriguez promised to "engage early and often" with Latino voters. The DNC also plans to build on Adelante, or "Forward," a seven-figure outreach plan that featured bilingual radio and print in nine battleground states last year.

The DNC also plans to resume "boot camps" to train bilingual campaign staff in key states.

"I believe that now the Democratic Party is in a position where, when I go and tell people, 'I want you to do more,' I have willing partners," Barreto said.

Weissert and Licon write for the Associated Press. AP writer Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.



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Judge puts pause on Florida ban of trans youth care

Three children can continue receiving puberty blockers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Saying gender identity is real, a federal judge temporarily blocked portions of a new Florida law that bans transgender minors from receiving puberty blockers, ruling Tuesday that the state has no rational basis for denying patients treatment.

Judge Robert Hinkle issued a preliminary injunction, saying three transgender children can continue receiving treatment. The lawsuit challenges the law Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed shortly before he announced a run for president.

"The elephant in the room should be noted at the outset. Gender identity is real. The record makes this clear," Hinkle said, adding that even a witness for the state agreed.

Transgender medical treatment for minors is increasingly under attack in many states and has been subject to restrictions or outright bans. But it has been available in the U.S. for more than a decade and is endorsed by major medical associations.

Hinkle's ruling was narrowly focused on the three children whose parents brought the suit.

Attention on the new law has focused on language involving minors, and Hinkle's ruling focuses on the use of GnRH agonists, known as puberty blockers, and cross-sex hormones. The lawsuit doesn't address other language that makes it difficult to nearly impossible for adults to receive or continue gender-affirming care.

Hinkle said people who mistakenly believe gender identity is a choice also "tend to disapprove all things transgender and so oppose medical care that supports a person's transgender existence."

Banning treatment for minors ignores risks patients might face, Hinkle said.

Research suggests that trans youths and adults are prone to stress, depression and suicidal thoughts, and the evidence is mixed on whether treatment with hormones or surgery resolves those issues.

Even ahead of contemplating medical treatment, experts agree, allowing children to express their gender in a way that matches their identity is beneficial, such as letting children assigned male at birth wear clothing or hairstyles usually associated with girls, if that is their wish.

"There are risks attendant to not using these treatments, including the risk — in some instances, the near certainty — of anxiety and depression and even suicidal ideation. The challenged statute ignores the benefits that many patients realize from these treatments and the substantial risk posed by forgoing the treatments," Hinkle said.

He also noted that hormone treatments and puberty blockers are often used to treat non-transgender children for other conditions, so the law makes their use legal for some, but not for others.

The three children in the lawsuit will "suffer irreparable harm" if they cannot begin puberty blockers, Hinkle said.

"The treatment will affect the patients themselves, nobody else, and will cause the defendants no harm," Hinkle said.

The governor's office didn't immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

JOHN AMIS AP Images for Human Rights Campaign

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN decries Tennessee's anti-drag bills in Nashville earlier this year. The group is raising the alarm over the dramatic increase in anti-LGBTQ+ measures in Republican-led states.

LGBTQ+ group declares crisis

Bills and laws in GOP states pose imminent threat to health and safety, Human Rights Campaign warns.

BY ALEXANDRA E. PETRI

For the first time, the largest LGBTQ+ rights organization in the U.S. has declared a state of emergency for the country's LGBTQ+ people.

Statehouses across the U.S. have increasingly introduced bills and passed laws targeting the LGBTQ+ community, creating an imminent threat to health and safety, according to the Human Rights Campaign, which was founded in 1980.

At least 525 bills that the group characterizes as anti-LGBTQ+ have been introduced in 41 state legislatures this session, and 76 have been signed into law — more than double the record reached last year, according to the organization. More than 220 of the bills targeted the transgender community, the group found.

The number of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation "is record-shattering," said Cathryn Oakley, state legislative director and senior counsel for the Human Rights Campaign.

"It is a really scary time for LGBTQ people, and I am not certain everyone understands quite how scary it really is," Oakley said.

State governments that are under Republican control, including those in Texas, Florida and Tennessee, are at the forefront of the movement against LGBTQ+ rights, the group said, calling out Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in particular for "crisscrossing the country to attack our community."

"The multiplying threats facing millions in our community are not just perceived — they are real, tangible and dangerous," said Kelley Robinson, the Human Rights Campaign's president. "In many cases they are resulting in violence against LGBTQ+ people, forcing families to uproot their lives and flee their homes in search of safer states, and triggering a tidal wave of increased homophobia and transphobia that puts the safety of each and every one of us at risk."

Alongside the national warning, which coincides with Pride Month, the group released a digital guidebook of health and safety resources, a state-by-state summary of laws, and "know your rights" information for LGBTQ+ travelers and residents in hostile states.

Last month, the Human Rights Campaign joined other civil rights groups in issuing a travel advisory for Florida, warning that recent legislation and policies — such as the state's "Don't Say Gay" law banning classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity — may pose risks to marginalized groups.

The number of anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced in state legislatures climbed from 115 in 2015 to more than 500 in 2023, according to the group's report. More than 22% of the laws passed this year were bans on gender-affirming care; others were largely anti-trans restrictions on bathroom and facilities use, anti-trans sports bans, constraints on drag performances, and prohibitions against using certain pronouns.

Many recent bills have focused on transgender and nonbinary youths, targeting their healthcare, bathroom use and participation in sports, the group said.

Framing efforts such as restricting bathroom use and public drag events as protecting children has been a through line for opponents of LGBTQ+ rights, whose campaigns are rooted in the idea that if "LGBTQ people are acknowledged, if we are respected, that is inherently obscene because LGBTQ people are inherently obscene," Oakley said.

"The energy put behind this movement to harm LGBTQ people via state legislatures ... is renewed and alarming and in many ways truly a threat to our democracy," she said. "It is also born of the exact same vintage homophobia and transphobia that we have been fighting back against forever."

The wave of legislation does not mirror an overwhelming shift in the public toward anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment, the Human Rights Campaign said, noting that in every state, a majority of people support measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Instead, the group said, the bills are the result of "a coordinated, top-down moral panic, driven by a few well-funded and well-connected organizations," with many using language from proposals by a coalition of conservative groups including the Heritage Foundation, Family Policy Alliance and the Alliance Defending Freedom.

In Los Angeles, a North Hollywood elementary school recently became the center of civil strife after a protest against a Pride Day assembly erupted into a fight among demonstrators.

The brawl brought to a head weeks of turmoil that began when a transgender teacher's LGBTQ+ pride flag was burned on school grounds.

More than 100 parents rallied against the assembly at Saticoy Elementary School, holding signs with messages including "No pride in grooming" and saying they opposed teaching elementary students about LGBTQ+ people. About 100 parents and other advocates showed up in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

Los Angeles Times
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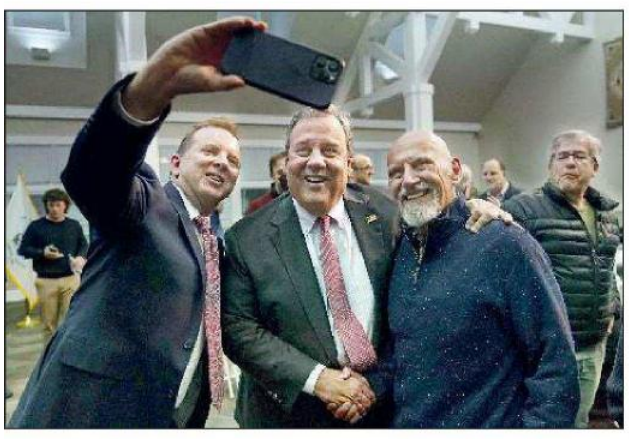

CHARLES KRUPA Associated Press

CHRIS CHRISTIE, center, greets people after an April town hall event in New Hampshire, a key state.

Christie kicks off presidential bid

Former New Jersey governor suggests that only he will directly confront Trump.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie wasted no time going after Donald Trump while launching his presidential campaign Tuesday, calling the former president and current Republican primary front-runner a "lonely, self-consumed, self-serving mirror hog," and arguing that no one else can stop him.

Christie began his run with a town hall in Manchester, N.H.

The former governor and onetime federal prosecutor ran for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016 and lost to Trump, then went on to become a close off-and-on advisor before breaking with the former president over his refusal to accept the results of the 2020 election.

With Trump trying for the White House again, Christie seems determined to deny him. After criticizing other Republican primary rivals for being afraid to directly challenge Trump, Christie made clear that he had no such concerns.

"The person I am talking about, who is obsessed with the mirror, who never admits a mistake, who never admits a fault, who always finds someone else and something else to blame for whatever goes wrong — but finds every reason to take credit for anything that goes right — is Donald Trump," he told a small, mostly friendly crowd at St. Anselm College.

"A lonely, self-consumed, self-serving mirror hog is not a leader," he said, adding that Trump "made us smaller by dividing us even further and pitting us one against the other."

But Christie also said President Biden "is doing the same thing, just on the other side." He noted that he'd known Biden for decades, saying he's "out of his depth" because "he's not the guy he used to be," referring to the 80-year-old president's age.

But Christie's chief target was Trump.

"There's a big argument in our country right now about whether character matters, and we have leaders who have shown us over and over again that not only are they devoid of character, they don't care." Christie said. "We can't dismiss the question of character anymore, everybody. If we do, we get what we deserve, and we will have to own it."

Christie enters a growing Republican primary field that also includes Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott, also of South Carolina. Former Vice President Mike Pence planned to formally launch his campaign in Iowa on Wednesday.

During his time as governor, Christie established a reputation as a fighter with a knack for creating viral moments of confrontation. But he faces an uphill battle to the nomination in a party that remains closely aligned with the former president, despite Trump's reelection loss in 2020 and Republicans' poorer-than-expected showing in the 2022 midterm election.

Atlanta OKs 'Cop City' funding

Fierce opposition fails to derail construction of training center for police and firefighters.

BY R.J. RICO

ATLANTA — The Atlanta City Council early Tuesday approved funding for the construction of a police and firefighter training center, rejecting the pleas of hundreds of activists who packed City Hall and spoke for hours in opposition to the project they decry as "Cop City."

The 11-4 vote just after 5 a.m. is a significant victory for Mayor Andre Dickens, who has made the $90-million project a large part of his first term in office, despite significant pushback.

The City Council also passed a resolution requesting two seats on the Atlanta Police Foundation's board.

In a statement, Dickens said the passage of the budget resolution "marks a major milestone for better preparing our fire, police and emergency responders to protect and serve our communities."

"Atlanta will be a national model for police reform, with the most progressive training and curriculum in the country," he said.

The decentralized "Stop Cop City" movement has galvanized protesters from across the country, especially after the fatal police shooting in January of Manuel Paez Terán, a 26-year-old environmental activist known as "Tortuguita" who had been camping in the woods near the site of the proposed project in DeKalb County.

For about 14 hours before the vote, residents took to the podium to slam the project, saying it would be a gross misuse of public funds to build the facility in an urban forest in a poor, majority-Black area.

"We're here pleading our case to a government that has been unresponsive, if not hostile, to an unprecedented movement in our City Council's history," said Matthew Johnson, executive director of Beloved Community Ministries, a local social justice nonprofit. "We're here to stop environmental racism and the militarization of the police. ... We need to go back to meeting the basic needs, rather than using police as the sole solution to all of our social problems."

ARVIN TEMKAR Associated Press

PROTESTERS gather Monday in Atlanta's City Hall. Many say a proposed $90-million police training center would be a gross misuse of public funds.

The training center was approved by the City Council in 2021 but required an additional vote for more funding.

City officials say the 85-acre campus would replace inadequate training facilities and address difficulties in hiring and retaining police officers that worsened after nationwide protests against police brutality and racial injustice three years ago.

But opponents fear it will lead to greater militarization of the police and say its construction will exacerbate environmental damage.

More than 220 people spoke publicly against the training center, and a handful voiced support, saying they trusted Dickens' judgment.

Council members agreed to approve $31 million in public funds for construction, as well as a provision that requires the city to pay $36 million — $1.2 million a year over 30 years — for using the facility.

The rest of the $90 million needed for the project would come from private donations to the Atlanta Police Foundation.

The vote occurred in the wake of the arrests Wednesday of three organizers who lead the Atlanta Solidarity Fund, which has provided bail money and helped find attorneys for arrested protesters.

Prosecutors have accused the three of money laundering and charity fraud, saying they used some of the money to fund violent acts of "forest defenders." Warrants cite reimbursements for expenses that include "gasoline, forest clean-up, totes, COVID rapid tests, media, yard signs."

The charges have alarmed human rights groups and prompted both of Georgia's Democratic senators to issue statements expressing their concerns.

Sen. Raphael Warnock tweeted that bail funds held important roles during the civil rights movement, and images of heavily armed police officers raiding the home where the activists lived "reinforce the very suspicions that help to animate the current conflict — namely, concerns Georgians have about over-policing, the quelling of dissent in a democracy, and the militarization of our police."

Devin Franklin, an attorney with the Southern Center for Human Rights, also invoked Wednesday's arrests while speaking before the City Council.

"This is what we fear — the image of militarized forces being used to effectuate arrests for bookkeeping errors," Franklin said.

Numerous instances of violence and vandalism have been linked to the Stop Cop City movement, including a January protest in downtown Atlanta in which a police car was set on fire and a March attack in which more than 150 masked protesters chased off police at the construction site and torched construction equipment before fleeing and blending in with the crowd at a music festival.

Those two instances have led to more than 40 people being charged with domestic terrorism, though prosecutors have had difficulty proving that many of those who were arrested took part in the violence.

In a sign of the security concerns Monday, dozens of police officers were posted throughout City Hall, and officials temporarily added "liquids, aerosols, gels, creams and pastes" to the list of items prohibited inside the building.

Six hours into the meeting, Emory University religion professor Sara McClintock took the podium and pleaded with council members to reject, or at least rethink, the training center.

"We don't want it," McClintock said. "We don't want it because it doesn't contribute to life. It's not an institution of peace. It's not a way forward for our city that we love."

Rico writes for the Associated Press.

L.A. Unified plans to revamp intervention programming

[**L.A. Unified,** from A1]

and federal pandemic relief funds must be spent by that time and won't be renewed. Officials said they can make the transition without layoffs but not without pain. Employees may have to shift to new jobs and new schools.

The funding problem is real, Carvalho said: "Pulling the rabbit out of the hat will not work. The rabbit is dead, and the hat is small."

Primary Promise has relied on specially trained teachers and aides to provide daily instruction to small groups of students in kindergarten through third grade who are behind in reading, math or both. Their progress is monitored every two to three weeks.

Such efforts — at L.A. Unified and elsewhere — fall under the general heading of "intervention services." One element that distinguished L.A. Unified's program was its large scale — a direct response to academic setbacks after campuses were closed for more than a year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Primary Promise was achieving extraordinary results, in the estimation of district officials, who presented a public progress report about 14 months ago. Since then — with the arrival of Carvalho — a district position has emerged that Primary Promise was less effective than advertised, not especially groundbreaking and too expensive to sustain.

Concerned parties on both sides of the debate lined up for a public showdown. More than 1,700 signed a petition in support of Primary Promise.

"The LAUSD has plenty of programs that don't work, so we, a coalition of parents, teachers, staff and community members, are asking the board to stop Supt. Carvalho from unilaterally dismantling this program that does in fact work, in order to enact a lesser version," the petition says.

CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

L.A. UNIFIED Supt. Alberto Carvalho visits with a class at 75th Street Elementary School in December.

Coming forward on the other side was a coalition of community groups who argued that Carvalho deserved the benefit of the doubt in his efforts to carry out — and be accountable for — his multiyear strategic plan.

"Primary Promise was responsive to a moment in time, but now we have a Board-adopted strategic plan aligned with the Board's vision and goals," a letter from the coalition said. "We must be nimble to changes that align to and actualize the plan."

Groups that signed the letter included InnerCity Struggle, Para Los Niños and Partnership for Los Angeles Schools.

In an interview, Primary Promise teacher Steve Braudo said the program's demise represents one more instance of the school district lurching in a new direction without a thorough evaluation.

Officials acknowledged that an evaluation of Primary Promise is not due until the end of July.

"The reality is that we can't wait," L.A. Unified Chief Strategy Officer Veronica Arreguin said. "We can't wait for any type of results right now. We need to be able to be ever-changing and supportive as to best practices that we know exist, not only in L.A. Unified but across the nation, that actually have instructional impacts."

She added that "we've seen that through research" elsewhere.

Carvalho's message on Primary Promise — to the extent that he has talked about it at all — has varied, but it's clear he was never won over by the program.

In an August interview, he said there was nothing original about Primary Promise, although such intervention strategies are a sound, if limited, practice. In a May 9 memo to the school board, he challenged the effectiveness of the effort: "There is limited data supporting that the current approach has achieved the results as envisioned."

In an address Friday, he said there was nothing remarkable about progress that occurs through such programs.

"I can assign any one of you four kids — even if you have no formal training in [teaching] reading — and if you spend 40 minutes with four kids — with no training in [teaching] reading — at the end of three months, those kids will read better," Carvalho said.

Education research has documented that "anything you do with kids will provide some degree of improvement," he added.

On Tuesday, he modified his emphasis.

"Of course it works," he said. "And I'm here to tell you it works because it has worked across the country over the past four decades."

Where he has been consistent is in asserting that the district could not afford to sustain Primary Promise.

Intervention efforts will require new funding sources, Carvalho said, which are available but limited.

Under his plan, significantly fewer elementary schools will have intervention services, but such help will be expanded to reach middle schools, and the district is working with schools to use discretionary funds to purchase intervention.

Officials asserted that the district has to transition out of intervention as a fundamental strategy. In an interview, Carvalho likened the situation to a hospital relying on an inefficient emergency room for public health. The district instead will focus on more effective teaching by classroom instructors. There will still be intervention services for the schools most in need, he noted.

Critics were not mollified. High school teacher and parent Nicolle Fefferman said the cuts should have come from programs that aren't as effective.

"The point of Primary Promise is to eliminate the need for later intervention," she said.

BUSINESS

L.A. County residents grapple with medical debt

Data show 1 in 10 face the burden, which tops $2.6 billion. And debilitating bills don't hit just the uninsured.

By Carly Olson

Stefani Reynolds AFP/Getty Images

MEDICAL debt is the largest source of debt in collections — more than credit card, utilities, and car loans combined. Above, Vice President Kamala Harris talks about medical debt relief at a Washington event in 2022.

One in 10 Los Angeles County residents are burdened with medical debt, according to new research from Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health.

And often even relatively small amounts of debt can plunge a patient into a financially precarious situation.

In 2021, 11.3% of L.A. County adults with medical debt owed on average more than $4,000 and about a third owed less than $1,000. Fifty percent reported taking on credit card debt to finance their medical bills, and 46% said they were unable to afford basic necessities because of their bills.

About half of those who took on credit card debt or were struggling to pay for necessities owed less than $2,000, the report said.

In L.A. County, 810,000 residents collectively are carrying more than $2.6 billion in medical debt as of 2021, the most recent data available, according to the health department.

It's a uniquely American issue: In the United States, medical debt is the largest source of debt in collections — more than credit card, utilities, and car loans combined — and one of the leading causes of bankruptcy. And anyone is vulnerable, even the insured.

"There's ways that medical debt could not only put people in financial jeopardy, but also could actually worsen their health," said Dr. Will Nicholas, director of the center for health impact evaluation at the Department of Public Health, who worked on the data analysis in the report.

Alice Manning, 63, who lives in Santa Monica, has been in medical debt for two decades.

Manning gave birth to twins in 2002, one of whom has cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder. While in neonatal intensive care immediately after his birth, her son Aidan contracted a bacteria that caused a massive stroke, leading to a cranial bleed and six brain surgeries.

Manning and her husband had insurance at the time, but because of the acute medical needs of their son, both soon stopped working. Her husband has since returned to a career in solar sales.

"And then that started that trajectory of, really, poverty for the next 15 years or so," Manning said.

The family amassed around $6,000 in medical debt, which they were never able to pay back.

"It ruined my husband's credit," she said.

That was just the beginning: Manning's oldest daughter broke her arm on her first day of middle school, resulting in an $800 ambulance bill. Her other daughter recently received a $2,000 bill for services that were unexpectedly not covered by her university's insurance. And Aidan has weekly out-of-network chiropractor visits to keep his spine straight.

Although the uninsured are most likely to have medical debt, the insured also can be vulnerable. More hospital visits are correlated with more debt, whether a patient has insurance. The report found that adults who visited the emergency room one or more times in the last year were twice as likely to be burdened with medical debt than someone who didn't go to the emergency room at all. People who spent at least one night in the hospital in the last year were more than 2.5 times as likely to be burdened with medical debt than someone whose visit did not include an overnight stay.

It's still crucial to have insurance, researchers said, but having it is not a panacea. Even adults on private health insurance plans through a stable employer can find themselves overwhelmed by debtbecause of plan exclusions, surprise bills and "exorbitant hospital costs."

Dr. Naman Shah, director of the division of medical and dental affairs at the L.A. County Department of Public Health, blames the sheer cost of insurance for this phenomenon in addition to the cost of premiums and high-deductible plans, which have been increasing. He believes that resolving this issue requires further work at the state level.

"Health insurance is important, and having any health insurance is better than having no health insurance, But we especially want Medi-Cal, which protects our most vulnerable residents, to protect them from further debt," Shah said.

Andrea Santibanez, 38, was hit with a surprising medical bill when she was pregnant in 2020. The downtown L.A. resident was going to routine checkups with her OB-GYN when her Medi-Cal insurance lapsed. She still doesn't know why but thinks her renewal paperwork was never received.

After one visit, she got a bill for $5,000 and panicked.

"And I'm like, 'Why did I get a bill if I have insurance?' " she asked the doctor at the time. "But then they said, 'No, you didn't renew your insurance.' I was like, 'Yes, I did!' "

Once both parties realized what had happened, Santibanez reactivated her Medi-Cal plan, but it took five months before the agency cleared the debt. "It's hard when you have Medi-Cal when something goes wrong. It takes a while for them to figure out what's going on," she said.

The percentage of adults with medical debt stayed "virtually unchanged" between 2017 and 2021 according to the report, a troubling finding for the researchers, who note that the number of uninsured residents in Los Angeles fell in that time. "Given that this was a period of expansion of insurance coverage, you would expect those numbers to go down and they didn't," Nicholas said.

This creates a trickle-down effect, harming the sickest residents of L.A. County, who rely on healthcare systems most severely. People with medical debt are 2.5 times more likely to be food-insecure, three times more likely to delay or forgo necessary healthcare and 3.5 times more likely to delay or not pick up necessary prescriptions.

"How much medical debt you have shouldn't have anything to do with your health," Nicholas said, but "that was the biggest finding that we had."

The report also found that Latino, Black and Native American residents were more burdened by medical debt than white and Asian residents. Adults in households with children were 37% more likely to have medical debt than adults in households without children.

The emergence of medical credit cards and other third-party payment options — which often come with alarmingly high interest rates — can also trap those who are already struggling to pay for services in a cycle of debt. "We know this happens in L.A. County," Shah said. "Part of the next steps and the work we're doing is measuring and mapping out exactly how prevalent it is."

In 2019, Manning was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Even before the diagnosis, she knew something was wrong — she had to sleep in a recliner because she experienced a choking sensation while lying flat on her back. But since her husband was between jobs, she didn't have insurance, and she tried to wait it out.

"I was afraid to go to the emergency room because we had no insurance," she said. "And finally I just said, 'Screw it. I'm going to the hospital.' " Fortunately, a social worker at the hospital helped her sign up for emergency Medi-Cal.

Now, Manning estimates she has around $4,000 in medical debt.

Navigating the medical establishment for her family and disputing charges takes a toll. "I literally have spent hundreds of hours on this," Manning said. "And if we had national healthcare, I could have been able to have a career, you know? It's very, very frustrating that our whole lives revolve around whether we can get healthcare."

A rise in unruly fliers, despite FAA warnings

Airlines see 47% boost in misconduct from 2021 to '22, group says, even as agency takes zero-tolerance stance.

By Terry Castleman

Rick Bowmer Associated Press

UNDER Federal Aviation Administration rules, unruly passengers face criminal prosecution or fines as high as $35,000. Airlines can ban such people from flying.

With air travel recovering from the pandemic, a new study found that bad behavior among airline passengers has continued to rise.

A new analysis by the International Air Transport Assn. shows that unruly-passenger incidents on airplanes increased 47% from 2021 to 2022, from one incident per 835 flights to one incident per 568 flights.

Though incidents of physical abuse often draw the most attention, the most common types of incidents were "noncompliance, verbal abuse and intoxication," according to the report. Other misdeeds included bringing outside alcoholic drinks into the cabin, failing to wear a seat belt and packing too much baggage.

Physical abuse incidents occurred on 1 in every 17,200 flights, a small fraction, but still an increase of 61% over the prior year. By comparison, the odds of a person being struck by lightning in their lifetime are 1 in 15,300, according to the National Weather Service.

The rise of incidents comes despite the Federal Aviation Administration issuing a zero-tolerance order in 2021 against unruly behavior.

Instead of receiving warnings or being required to seek counseling, violators began to face criminal prosecution or fines of as much as $35,000. Airlines also have the authority to ban unruly passenger from flying.

"Passengers and crew are entitled to a safe and hassle-free experience on board," said IATA Deputy Director General Conrad Clifford. "While our professional crews are well trained to manage unruly passenger scenarios, there is no excuse for not following the instructions of the crew."

The FAA said in April that it had sent 250 cases of unruly passengers to the FBI for potential criminal prosecution, including one in March, when a man tried to stab a flight attendant with a broken-off spoon.

FAA numbers showed that about two-thirds of unruly-passenger reports were related to face masks before April 2022, when a federal judge struck down masking requirements on planes and public transportation.

Incidents of passengers failing to comply with the flight crew, the most common category in 2022, were up 37% over 2021 and included smoking and vaping in lavatories, "failure to fasten seat belts when instructed," carrying on too much baggage or failing to store it, and consumption of outside alcohol on the plane, according to the IATA.

The data come from more than 20,000 reports submitted by some 40 airlines.

"No one wants to stop people having a good time when they go on holiday — but we all have a responsibility to behave with respect for other passengers and the crew," Clifford said.

Merck sues U.S., likens Medicare drug plan to 'extortion'

Associated Press

Merck is suing the federal government over a plan to negotiate Medicare drug prices, calling the program a sham equivalent to extortion.

The drugmaker is seeking to halt the program, which was laid out in the Inflation Reduction Act and is expected to save taxpayers billions of dollars in the coming years.

Merck said in a complaint filed Tuesday that the program does not involve genuine negotiation. Instead, it said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services selects drugs to be included and then dictates the price, threatening drugmakers with "a ruinous daily excise tax" if they decline to agree.

"It is tantamount to extortion," the drugmaker said in the complaint, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington.

The Rahway, N.J., company said it expects its diabetes treatment Januvia to be part of "the IRA's scheme" starting later this year.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement that the department plans to "vigorously defend" the drug price negotiation program.

"The law is on our side," he said.

The lawsuit names Becerra as a defendant as well as his department and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Merck said in the complaint that the plan laid out in the Inflation Reduction Act suggests that federal officials will sit down with drugmakers and negotiate voluntary price agreements.

But the drugmaker said the program doesn't involve actual negotiations or agreements. It said Health and Human Services picks the drugs to be included and then leans on manufactuerers to provide steep discounts under the tax threat.

Merck says the program violates the U.S. Constitution in a couple ways. They include the 5th Amendment's requirement that the government pays " 'just compensation' if it takes 'property' for public use," according to the complaint.

The drugmaker said Congress could have simply allowed Health and Human Services to state a maximum price it would pay for a drug or use its leverage to negotiate, which would have allowed drugmakers to walk away from talks.

Instead, Merck said the government uses the threat of severe penalties to requisition drugs and refuses to pay fair value, forcing drugmakers "to smile, play along, and pretend it is all part of a 'fair' and voluntary exchange."

"This is political Kabuki theater," the complaint states, noting that allowing drugmakers to walk away from negotiations risks angering Medicare beneficiaries who might not be able to get their medications.

Medicare is the federally funded coverage program mainly for people who are 65 and older.

Republican lawmakers also have criticized President Biden's administration over the plan, saying it could compel drugmakers to pull back on introducing new drugs that could be subjected to haggling.

The federal government is expected to soon release rules for negotiating drug prices and then will publish in September a list of 10 drugs that it will start price negotiations on next year.

The plan marks the first time that the federal government will bargain directly with drug companies over the prices of some of Medicare's costliest drugs. Congress had previously forbidden such negotiations.

Negotiated prices won't take hold until 2026.

Two Uber drivers found millions for gig workers

[**Merchant,** from A1] stipulates that every year, that rate will be raised to keep pace with inflation. Since inflation was 6.8% in 2022, that fee was supposed to be bumped up 2 cents. In 2023, it should have gone up 2 more, to 34 cents a mile.

This is where it gets interesting. As far as Gomez could tell, no such increase ever took effect. As of early this year, drivers were still being paid 30 cents a mile.

Now, 2 to 4 cents a mile might not sound like much, but to gig workers driving hundreds of miles a day, it adds up fast. In the course of a year, those pennies can add up to hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Multiplied across the nearly 1.3 million gig app drivers in California, it can add up to tens, even hundreds of millions of dollars.

In March, Gomez was having dinner with a colleague, Sergio Avedian. They'd texted and corresponded a lot, but never met in person. Avedian is a longtime Uber driver too, and in recent years, he's turned to advocacy as well. He's a senior contributor at the Rideshare Guy, where he runs a podcast that tackles the ins and outs of ride-hail policy and gig working life. I've highlighted some of his work in this column before.

Avedian is a force. He keeps an Excel spreadsheet documenting every one of the thousands of rides he provides each year, logging his fare, miles traveled, pay and so on. He gathers data from other drivers, many of whom now listen to his show. He likes driving for the ride-hailing companies, but he is hellbent on keeping them honest.

During his meal with Gomez, Avedian started getting calls from reporters to comment on some news — Proposition 22, which had been struck down by a Superior Court in Alameda County in 2021, had been upheld on appeal. All the commotion reminded Gomez of the weirdness with the vehicle expenses rate. He mentioned it to Avedian. "Sergio immediately started doing math in his head," Gomez recalls.

When they pored over the law, they realized that Proposition 22 had technically saddled the California treasurer's office with the task of calculating and publishing the adjusted rate each year, which, as far as they could tell, it had not done.

Sergio Avedian

UBER DRIVERS Sergio Avedian, left, and Pablo Gomez, sitting outside Uber's driver hub in Burbank, found that California ride-hail drivers were being shortchanged by millions of dollars and pushed to find out why.

> Proposition 22 'was specifically written to be confusing. To everyone. Voters, consumers, drivers, state actors.'
>
> VEENA DUBAL, professor at UC Hastings College of the Law

"For 18 months nothing was done," Avedian said. "I missed 18 months! Everybody missed 18 months! I was like, 'Holy s—, this could be a lot of money!' "

There are some 1.3 million gig workers in California, according to industry reports, including more than 209,000 Uber drivers and 200,000 DoorDash drivers. "I'm telling you, it's going to be like $100 to $300 million," Avedian said, offering some back-of-the-envelope math to support his estimate.

On April 13, Gomez called the state treasurer's office and asked about the rate adjustment. The first person he reached directed him to the IRS' webpage for information on mileage-based tax deductions. After explaining what he was after and spending some time on hold, Gomez was assured the rate would be published soon.

Weeks went by. After conferring with Avedian again, Gomez tweeted at Fiona Ma, the California treasurer, asking why the rate hadn't been changed yet.

Avedian boosted the tweet too, and, a week later, on May 10, Ma replied, announcing that the rate adjustment had been published. Almost immediately, perhaps fearing the prospect of a class-action lawsuit, Uber and DoorDash began sending the back pay to drivers. Avedian, who drives only part time and picks only profitable rides, got $85 from Uber; his wife, who drives part time too, got more than $200 from DoorDash.

Remember, drivers get paid only if they're making the minimum rate, and many ride-hail drivers exceed it. But there's one kind of driver who tends to make the minimum, as they rely on tips for income — delivery drivers.

"Delivery is horrible for base pay," Avedian says. "If you are a full-time Uber Eats or Grubhub driver you're getting over a thousand dollars [in mileage reimbursement], guaranteed."

All said, the catch-up payments stand to be a huge boon to gig workers and delivery drivers statewide. Uber, whose business spans ride hailing and food delivery, won't say how much it's paid out, but the anecdata suggest it's *a lot*. (As of this writing, Uber, Lyft and DoorDash have begun issuing back pay; Instacart and Grubhub have not. Since the payout applies to all companies that work with independent contractors, it applies to Amazon Flex, Target's Shipt and Walmart's Spark as well, though those companies tend to pay above the minimum.)

So, what happened? Why weren't drivers getting the full rate all along? Consumers are paying for it, after all. As Avedian points out, every time you take a Lyft or order Uber Eats, you're paying an extra 75 cents to $1 for a fee marked California Driver Benefits, which is then ostensibly used to pay for things such as health subsidies and this mileage fee. The resulting pile of money is one the app companies got to sit on for a year and a half, earning interest or investing it or using it to cover losses or so on.

This is where it gets murky. When I asked Uber why it didn't pay drivers the adjusted rate as Proposition 22 requires it to do, the company blamed the treasurer's office for not publishing the adjusted rate.

"As outlined in the proposition, the California Treasurer's office is required to update per-mile compensation for vehicle expenses based on inflation," Uber spokesperson Zahid Arab told me in an email. "That office released those updates last week, both for 2022 — 18 months late — and for 2023. We are in the process of making all necessary adjustments to ensure the benefits afforded to drivers by Prop. 22 will continue to be met."

The state treasurer's office, meanwhile, hit back.

"The characterization that the treasurer's office was somehow late posting the adjustment is misinformed and disingenuous," Joe DeAnda, a spokesman for the treasurer's office, said in a statement.

Proposition 22 was struck down as unconstitutional in August 2021, he said, so the office deemed the law unenforceable. "Given the uncertainty of the law's status," he said, "and the ongoing legal activity, the State Treasurer's Office refrained from publishing the adjusted rate, and only felt it prudent to do so when the law formally took effect this March."

DeAnda said adjustments will be calculated and published every January.

Now, one reason that the treasurer's office might be defensive about the timeline here is that Ma is running for lieutenant governor in the next election cycle.

She provided a statement on the matter too:

"More money going in the pockets of drivers is a good thing," she said. "App-based delivery services have become a major source of economic activity for California, and the provision that requires the State Treasurer's Office to provide annual adjustments to the vehicle expense reimbursement rate is critically important since none of it would be possible without the drivers' willingness to use their own vehicles to work. I encourage all drivers to check their accounts for these payments and hope all companies will quickly issue reimbursements if they haven't already."

The treasurer's office says it has already been flooded with calls from drivers looking for their payments. But it has no ability to pay them — that duty falls to the gig app companies themselves. The treasurer's responsibility begins and ends with adjusting that rate (you can see it at the top of the treasurer's website now).

The treasurer has heard from some drivers that Uber is encouraging them to contact the treasurer's office, despite knowing it has no power to provide funds of any kind to them. (It also might be noted that although the law charges the state with calculating and publishing the rate, it's not entirely clear that the gig app companies aren't responsible for paying the adjusted rate even if the state doesn't do so.)

It is, in short, a big, stinking mess. And although Uber tries to throw the treasurer's office under the bus, and that office says it couldn't make the adjustment on time due to legal uncertainty, guess who gets the short end of the stick? The gig workers who were barely making minimum wage to begin with.

And that, says Veena Dubal, a professor at the UC Hastings College of the Law, is the entire point. This was what the gig app companies that wrote Proposition 22 were trying to do — make a big, stinking mess that would be perennially hard to sort out.

"It was specifically written to be confusing," Dubal tells me. "To everyone. Voters, consumers, drivers, state actors."

That's because, as Dubal's scholarship has shown, gig app companies, which have never been profitable, depend on taking every conceivable opportunity to squeeze workers, engaging in practices such as algorithmic wage discrimination and rampant corner-cutting.

Again, this is by design.

"I bet if you asked any given voter what Prop. 22 did, they would say, it benefits workers!" Dubal says. "In fact, it took rights away from workers and dramatically lowered the wages they were owed under the law. ... I can only imagine the companies hoped no one at the treasury's office would notice this strange new responsibility so they could nickel and dime drivers."

Those companies, which spent more than $200 million campaigning for Proposition 22, didn't count on drivers like Gomez and Avedian, perhaps, to claw back what was rightfully theirs.

"Honestly, it feels great," Gomez says. "I hope this brings a bright spotlight on a broken system that exploits workers and consumers alike."

Avedian, for his part, is already moving on to the next challenge. He wants to take stock of what it is that the gig app companies are doing with all the money they get under the California Driver Benefits fee they slap on the millions of rides the app companies facilitate every day. There's no public accounting of how that money gets used, and none required by the letter of the law.

And we've already seen what happens when no one forces the gig app companies to meet it: Nothing.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Wall St. inches toward bull market

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. stocks drifted higher Tuesday amid a vacuum of market-moving data, nudging Wall Street closer to the edge of what's called a bull market.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.06 points, or 0.2%, to 4,283.85. It's just 0.2% away from finishing a day 20% above where it was in mid-October, as a long-predicted recession has yet to hit and excitement around artificial intelligence has helped a select group of stocks to soar.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 10.42 points, or less than 0.1%, to 33,573.28, while the Nasdaq composite rose 46.99 points, or 0.4%, to 13,276.42.

This week has few top-tier economic reports and corporate earnings updates to help Wall Street answer its main question. It wants to know which could happen first: a recession or inflation falling enough to get the Federal Reserve to start cutting interest rates, which have climbed so high that they've hurt parts of the economy.

That's why next week looms large. The U.S. government will publish its latest monthly updates on inflation, and the Fed will meet on interest rate policy. The bet on Wall Street is that the Fed will hold off on raising rates, which would be the first time that's happened in more than a year, but resume raising rates in July.

"What you're seeing in markets is a reaction to a Fed that's likely to pause when the economy hasn't yet fallen into recession," said Brent Schutte, chief investment officer at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management. "I think the unfortunate reality is for an overall recession."

Some parts of the economy have already buckled under the weight of much higher interest rates, including manufacturing and the U.S. banking system. Schutte expects the job market to follow eventually, even if a report Friday showed that employers unexpectedly accelerated hiring last month.

Some of the strongest action was in the cryptocurrency market, where prices were lower after the Securities and Exchange Commission charged Coinbase with operating its trading platform as an unregistered national securities exchange, broker and clearing agency.

Shares of its parent, Coinbase Global, tumbled 12.1% after the SEC also accused it of being liable for some of Coinbase's violations.

Coinbase criticized the SEC's approach to crypto, saying "the solution is legislation that allows fair rules for the road to be developed transparently and applied equally, not litigation."

A day earlier, the SEC filed 13 charges against another huge crypto trading platform, Binance, and its founder.

Elsewhere in markets, oil fell to give back brief gains driven by Saudi Arabia's announcement that it would cut production to boost crude's price. A barrel of U.S. crude fell 41 cents to $71.74. A barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, sank 42 cents to $76.29.

Both were close to $120 a year ago but have fallen amid worries about a strapped global economy's need for fuel.

On the winning side of Wall Street was GitLab, which soared 31.2% after the software development platform gave a revenue forecast for the fiscal year that topped analysts' expectations.

A frenzy around AI has helped a handful of stocks soar to immense gains this year, including Nvidia's 164.5% surge. That's helped drive much of the S&P 500's gains in 2023, but it's also caused critics to question whether a bubble is forming.

Even though the S&P 500 is nearing a bull market, almost as many stocks within it are down this year as up.

Comerica rose 7.1% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 3.68% from 3.69% late Monday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were mixed and made only modest moves across much of Europe.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,573.28	+10.42	+0.03	+1.29
S&P 500	4,283.85	+10.06	+0.24	+11.57
Nasdaq composite	13,276.42	+46.99	+0.36	+26.85
S&P 400	2,530.24	+50.94	+2.05	+4.11
Russell 2000	1,855.40	+48.69	+2.69	+5.35
EuroStoxx 50	4,295.42	+2.18	+0.05	+13.27
Nikkei (Japan)	32,506.78	+982.56	+3.12	+24.57
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,099.28	-9.22	-0.05	-3.45

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	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	www.ccombank.com
	4.61% APY 30 mos. CD Special - $100K Minimum to open - Member FDIC									
First Credit Bank	NA	NA	3.50	4.75	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75	4.50	310-273-2500
	NA	NA	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	
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OPINION

EDITORIAL

PERSONAL NOTE

It took Arnold 20 years to own the groping claims

Netflix

FORMER GOV. Arnold Schwarzenegger in new documentary series on Netflix.

IT WAS LATE EVENING and I was sitting at my desk, neurotically rechecking details in an L.A. Times story I wrote with colleagues Gary Cohn and Bob Welkos breaking the news that Arnold Schwarzenegger groped and harassed women over the course of decades.

The story would be in print the next day, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2003, just five days before the election to recall the unpopular Democratic Gov. Gray Davis. The leading candidate to replace Davis was the enormously popular Schwarzenegger, running as a Republican. He was a movie star, a successful businessman — and a sexual harasser.

I deeply believed all the accounts that we had spent day and night collecting from people who had nothing to gain by talking to us — and plenty to lose if they did, especially if they worked in the entertainment industry. Some spoke only after we promised not to name them.

Others we couldn't convince to speak or find. I spent days trying to track down a woman named Tamee who I heard had once told a group of people that Schwarzenegger had cornered and manhandled her.

I called a friend of hers who told me Tamee wouldn't speak to me. I went to the friend's house on the Westside one sunny weekday morning hoping to persuade her to help me reach Tamee. When she opened the door, I identified myself and offered her a candle in a pretty gift bag I had brought as some kind of offering. (*What* was I thinking?) She was livid. "How dare you come to my home," she said, seething. I shrank away from the door and drove downtown to the Times office.

But now the story was done. John Carroll, the former editor of the paper who had championed this investigation, was strolling the newsroom talking to people who were there late, shepherding the story into print. He was pleased with the story and stopped by my desk to chat. A calm, courtly man, he didn't waste words. He started to walk away from my desk and turned back. "You know we're going to get attacked for this," he said matter-of-factly. "Don't worry about it."

In that moment, I thought he was the most fearless person I'd ever met. I could feel my anxiety recede.

I unearthed these memories of the story last year before I was interviewed by Lesley Chilcott, the director of the Netflix documentary series on Schwarzenegger that begins streaming Wednesday. In many ways, the paper was in uncharted territory taking on this kind of investigation into accusations of groping and other boorish behavior on the part of a movie star running for governor. This was 14 years before the #MeToo movement would upend much of society's tolerance for the sexual misconduct of powerful men (and some women).

The story hit the front page like a bombshell. The morning started with Schwarzenegger publicly acknowledging that he had "behaved badly sometimes" and apologizing to anyone he offended. But that didn't stave off the phone calls and emails assailing us for running the story so close to election day and accusing of us of colluding with the Democratic Party (false and ridiculous). However, we also got a barrage of tips. Editors put more reporters on the story.

That afternoon, my phone rang. I picked it up and a voice said, "Hi, Carla, I think you've been looking for me. This is Tamee." I was stunned — and moved. After weeks of looking for her, she had found *me*. Tamee Smith's recollections of Schwarzenegger following her into a bathroom on a studio lot and grabbing her breast were published in a follow-up story on Oct. 5.

Still, this mythology that we held the story and deliberately ran it close to the election took root. A journalist for another publication said on a TV talk show that she had a source who told her we had held the story. It was ludicrous and it was infuriating. As I have said for the last 20 years, we did not hold the story. We had barely two months between Schwarzenegger announcing his candidacy and the election to find people, persuade them to talk, interview them and corroborate the stories we felt were solid. Most news investigations take months or longer to complete. In a normal political campaign lasting a year or more, there would be much more time to do this kind of reporting. But no matter when you were done, it wouldn't make sense from any point of view to hold the story.

We discussed going on TV talk shows to explain and defend the timing. But the paper's position was that the story speaks for itself. Eventually Carroll wrote a thoughtful, smart commentary explaining how the story came together.

I always regretted that decision to stay quiet. Journalism was in a transitional period, from a time in which news organizations didn't feel a published story needed to be explained or promoted to one in which they have to sell the stories through other media platforms. These days, we have an entire daily show, "LA Times Today" on the cable channel Spectrum News 1, devoted to reporters and editors talking about their stories.

In total, we published accounts from at least 15 women claiming they were groped or sexually harassed by Schwarzenegger. I couldn't imagine how people could elect him just a few days later as the state's top lawmaker. Had he not forfeited his right to hold that kind of honor and responsibility by harassing women?

It's interesting to hear Schwarzenegger more fully apologize in Chilcott's series. Admitting he had once been defensive about the accusations, he says in one episode, "Forget all the excuses, it was wrong." I'm glad to hear that. I hope he means it.

— CARLA HALL,
A MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

LETTERS

FREDERIC J. BROWN AFP/Getty Images

WRITERS on strike march on the picket line in front of Netflix in Hollywood on May 5. Workers say that top studio executives are egregiously overpaid.

'Blind to corporate greed'

Re "Are Hollywood execs overpaid?" June 4

HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY? Corporate bosses have been receiving huge salaries for years while their workers typically do not earn enough to save money. Fast-food workers make a pittance while corporate heads fly in private jets. Writers who make studios billions have to strike to get a fair wage.

Why has our society allowed this to happen? A loud segment of Americans are busy being vigilantes threatening schools and companies that do not agree with their worldview. But they are blind to corporate greed.

Don't these same people realize while they've been railing about school library books and LGBTQ+ clothes sold at Target, they are being ripped off and cheated?

The #MeToo and the Black Lives Matter movements have begun to change some of our bad habits. Maybe it's time to start another movement for proper wages for all, meaning a cap on CEO compensation as well as a livable minimum wage.

We need to wake up, and corporate bosses need to share the wealth.

GENIE SAFFREN, Los Angeles

All employees contribute to the success of a company, and not just in Hollywood. A partial solution to the outlandish pay disparity between top executives and their employees is simple.

If any company is publicly owned and traded, there should be a national law that says executives cannot earn more than a predetermined multiple (say, 20 times) of the average of all salaries at that company. For example, if the average of all salaries is $50,000, the CEO could only earn $1 million, not including stock options.

If executives believe they deserve more, they can either increase the salaries of all employees or start their own private company.

MARTIN PLOST
Rancho Palos Verdes

Who put that sandbag there?

Re "Biden, Feinstein, Trump: How do we know when our leaders are too old?" Opinion, June 4

I appreciated Dr. Louise Aronson's suggestions for evolving our ideas about aging, with so many expressing concern about President Biden and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). The reference to the uniqueness of individual aging is right on.

Yet, I was aghast seeing the sandbag over which our president tripped after giving the commencement address to U.S. Air Force Academy graduates.

What were the people who prepared that stage thinking? It almost seemed like an intentional trap left there by ageists who argue against our president because of the years he has lived — years he has spent acquiring compassion, experience and wisdom.

I am a fit 65-year-old who is grateful for my beautifully functioning artificial hips. I walk 30 to 40 miles a week. Yet, when distracted even momentarily, a tiny tree stub or root can send me flying.

I am not surprised that an obstacle as large as that sandbag tripped Biden, who appeared to be looking straight ahead to greet others onstage.

JANA K. SHAKER
Pebble Beach, Calif.

::

As we age, most of us become disabled. The question is whether a disability is physical or mental.

Guidelines for aging must ensure we do not discriminate against those who are able to continue functioning mentally despite limitations they might have physically.

Many presidents had physical disabilities, the most notable being Franklin D. Roosevelt. And there have been several presidents who may have also had some form of mental struggle.

As long as one can think, analyze and communicate, one should be able to sustain their position by providing professional experience and expertise that serves the public.

"Too old" should not include those who are able to think on or off their feet, regardless of any sandbags.

ROBIN CLOUGH
Santa Clarita

'Not people to be afraid of'

Re "Two mommies, two daddies: That's still too much for some," column, June 9

Thank you for your excellent coverage of the anti-Pride protest at Saticoy Elementary School in North Hollywood on June 2. Sandy Banks gives us a very balanced view of this controversy.

I do not understand why parents are so upset about celebrating diversity.

I've lived through all the events Banks mentioned, including the passing of Proposition 8 and gay marriage later being recognized as legal. I never thought that I would be living in a world where people I love are considered the enemy.

LGBTQTIA+ people want what all people want: home, love, equality and family. We are not people to be afraid of.

When our right to exist is threatened, everyone is threatened. Who is next?

DENISE STEHLE
Lakewood

::

Banks gets right to the point. The movement to reverse years of growth and acceptance in our country is alive and well.

Consider what's happening now: Parents protesting at a school because of a Pride Day assembly, the pushback against the Dodgers for honoring the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the violence and threats against Target and laws passed that target women and LGBTQ+ people.

I had hoped our society was evolving and becoming more inclusive. Based on recent events, I guess I was wrong.

TOM IANNUCCI
Los Angeles

::

The protesters at Saticoy Elementary show us why there is a need for a Pride Day assembly. The reason? To stop bullying before it begins.

It's likely that there are LGBTQ+ children attending the school. It's likely that there are kids from homes with two mommies and with two daddies.

And based on the behavior of the protesting parents, you can bet that there are already learning to bully their minority classmates.

CHRISTI ENGEL
Topanga

Not a climate-cooling fix

Re "L.A. hot topic: Requiring AC in rentals," June 5

The most important thing is missing from L.A. City Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez's motion to study "cooling apparati for all residential units." (air conditioning, in other words).

Our attention should be directed toward passive design approaches as we try to make homes more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint. If we use passive design elements in future construction projects, we can decrease home energy demands by 80% to 90% compared with code-minimum construction, according to research by Anna Haefele for the UC Berkeley geography department.

Installing air conditioners in every residence across Los Angeles is not an ideal solution; there are more cost-effective and planet-friendly ways of handling the issue.

We must look to our forward-thinking architects to lead the way.

JULIE RICO
Los Angeles

::

The article fails to mention from where all of the electricity to power these cooling units will come.

If we provide air conditioning to every residential unit in Los Angeles, the Department of Water and Power will need extra generation capacity and storage. Otherwise, this will just lead to more and longer blackouts.

If there's no electricity, the AC does not work.

JIM RUEFF
Fountain Valley

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BRIAN CASSEY Associated Press

PREDATORS in Australia can learn not to eat cane toads, a poisonous amphibian introduced a century ago.

Scientists can train wild animals to avoid threats. Is that ethical?

By Daniel T. Blumstein, Catherine Price and Thom van Dooren

When large and warty cane toads were first brought to Australia nearly 100 years ago, they had a simple mission: to gobble up beetles and other pests in the sugarcane fields.

Today, though, the toads have become an infamous example of a global problem: biocontrol initiatives gone wrong. The squat creatures have spread across the top half of the country, wreaking havoc on ecosystems. Cane toads are highly toxic, and consuming just one is generally lethal for predators like monitor lizards, freshwater crocodiles and the small, spotted marsupials called quolls.

But what if you taught other animals not to eat the toads? Could you — and should you?

Conservation behavior scientists are doing just that with behavior-based management, in which an animal's behavior is encouraged, modified or manipulated to achieve positive conservation outcomes.

In Australia, scientists are working with Indigenous rangers to teach predators not to eat cane toads. In New Zealand, researchers have used fake scents to condition ferrets, hedgehogs and other predators to ignore endangered birds' eggs. Other behavior-based management efforts include re-teaching lost migratory routes to birds in North America, preparing captive animals for life in the wild in Colombia and using deterrents like colored flags to keep wildlife away from sites where they might conflict with humans.

This research has significant potential to conserve threatened species and reduce animal deaths. However, modifying behavior may come at a cost to animals or the communities they live in.

To address this question, we and our colleagues have developed a framework to help researchers evaluate the ethical considerations in modifying animal behavior against other options.

Behavioral interventions can conserve species and ecosystems without shooting, poisoning or trapping animals that people view as problems. This is particularly appealing where the animal is endangered.

Elephants, for example, are often killed by accident or on purpose when they wander into human environments like farmers' fields or railroads. In Kenya, farmers and researchers have built "bee fences" that use elephants' fear of bees to keep them out of crops. In some cases, it is impractical, publicly unacceptable or just undesirable to kill some animals in order to conserve others, or to achieve other wildlife management goals — like keeping seals away from salmon farms or coyotes out of suburbs. Behavioral interventions are increasingly viewed as a more ethical conservation and wildlife management possibility.

Yet such interventions also open up new ethical questions, or raise old questions in new ways. While avoiding poisoning or shooting animals can reduce overall harm, behavioral management may generate other forms of harm. For example, using aversive stimuli such as loud noises, harassment or mild pain to train species to avoid an area may cause distress and even trauma. In other cases, there are incidental harms to other species, such as animals killed to be used as "bait" in behavioral interventions.

Changing an animal's behavior may affect local communities' livelihoods and cultural practices too, whether for good or ill — such as asking ranchers and farmers to use scent "biofences" to keep predators away from their livestock.

Some people believe deliberately modifying animal behaviors is unacceptable. For example, as California condors neared extinction in the wild, some conservationists pushed for intensive interventions and captive breeding. Others were so strongly opposed that they viewed extinction as preferable, arguing that the condor was better dead than bred.

Another potentially significant issue is "behavioral bycatch": the costs for organisms unintentionally caught up in a behavior-based management project. For example, some fish farms have tried to prevent seals from eating their fish by using a device that plays an unpleasant sound — a seal's version of fingernails on a chalkboard. But in one study, scientists discovered that toothed whales were even more sensitive to the sound and less likely to adjust to it. As a result, these non-target animals may be more prone to abandoning the area than the target animals.

To make wise decisions, wildlife managers need to identify the diverse values at stake in any given situation. This might involve cultural and heritage values — such as the significance of hunting in an Indigenous culture — as well as economic and aesthetic values. It will also likely include the welfare of individual animals, the health of ecosystems and perhaps animals' ability to live with minimal interference. And managers have to be clear about what a proposed intervention is trying to achieve and how likely it is to meet that goal.

This approach would help wildlife managers and researchers focus on some of the key potential effects and compare those with other tactics. Today, virtually all conservation challenges have a human dimension, and it's important to recognize that the most effective solutions may involve changing people's behavior — such as controlling human food waste to discourage "problem bears."

There is great promise in behavioral interventions for conservation, but also challenges. Slowing down to weigh all the values involved will help minimize potential harm and maximize benefits to both humans and wildlife.

Daniel T. Blumstein is a professor in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at UCLA. Catherine Price is a behavioral ecologist at the University of Sydney. Thom van Dooren is an associate professor and deputy director of the Sydney Environment Institute at the University of Sydney. This article was produced in partnership with The Conversation.

Red states' broken safety-net promises

JACKIE CALMES

It's been nearly a year since the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion and returned the issue of reproductive rights to the states. Since then, we've seen red states rush to ban all or nearly all abortions, some without exceptions for rape, incest or threats to a pregnant woman's life.

What we haven't seen is those same states doing what their "pro-life" Republican leaders promised amid their celebrations of the conservative court's ruling: to finally deliver better healthcare and antipoverty policies for needy women forced to give birth, and for their kids.

Among the most prominent promisers was Gov. Tate Reeves of Mississippi, the state that brought the winning antiabortion case, Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, to the Supreme Court, and that is a perennial bottom-dweller in rankings of the states' safety nets. Reeves proclaimed on national television networks, "We must show that being pro-life is not just about being anti-abortion" and "do everything we can to make it easier on those moms who may be in unwanted pregnancies" and to ensure "that those babies, once born, have a productive life."

Most state legislatures have held their 2023 sessions; those with antiabortion majorities have had the time and opportunity to make good on their promises to strengthen their states' safety nets. Alas, few things were more predictable than the fact that they wouldn't.

A similar political dynamic is at work with gun policies. After each mass shooting, Republicans say attention to mental health, not firearm restrictions, is the answer. Yet gun safety groups see little follow-through on the former. Besides, as John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, says, "This is not an either/or situation — states can invest in mental health services while also passing laws to prevent people with dangerous histories from buying guns."

When it comes to abortion bans and post-Dobbs policies, the gap between bold talk about compassion for disadvantaged women and children and action on their behalf is particularly stark.

After the Dobbs decision, Mississippi quickly banned abortion except in cases where a woman's life is in danger or when a pregnancy results from a rape, *if* the rape has been reported to police. But the state — first in the nation in both overall poverty and child poverty, and second from the last in healthcare — still refuses to take the single step that would help the most low-income families: It is one of just 10 states, all of them with Republican-controlled legislatures, Republican governors or both, that hasn't expanded Medicaid for certain uninsured low-income adults and children, even though the feds mostly pick up the tab under the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

Economists say the state is forfeiting about $1.5 billion annually to provide roughly 300,000 residents with healthcare, according to Mississippi Today. And yet,

> When it comes to post-Dobbs policies, the gap between talk about compassion for disadvantaged women and children and action is particularly stark.

the publication reported, "There was no serious push by Republicans in the 2023 session to even debate expansion, let alone vote on it."

And why should the legislators act? Reeves, who would have to sign any Medicaid expansion into law, remains opposed, as is the state's House speaker. It's socialism, the Republicans say.

The big-talking governor did relent on one policy that he and the Legislature have previously opposed: He recently signed a bill giving women who qualify for the state's limited Medicaid coverage a full year of postpartum care, up from just two months. Healthcare, business and grassroots groups had long pressed for the extended care, and with good reason. The state's mortality rate for women in the year following the end of a pregnancy is nearly double the national average, and deaths have long been disproportionately high among Black women.

The story is much the same in more populous Texas, the long Republican-controlled state that pioneered a dystopian bounty law to snare anyone who aided or abetted an abortion — before it and other states got the Supreme Court's green light to ban them.

Until just days ago, Texas also long resisted providing Medicaid to women for more than two months after a pregnancy, despite increasing maternal mortality rates and the pleas of medical experts. At the end of its session, the Legislature extended postpartum care to one year. The state still refuses Obamacare's invitation to expand Medicaid to uninsured low-wage workers generally, though one out of four women of childbearing age is uninsured — the highest share in the nation. And, like Mississippi, Texas has been embroiled in a years-long lawsuit against the shameful record of abuse in its foster care system.

A headline in the Texas Tribune a year ago said it all: "Texas isn't ready to support more parents and kids in a post-Roe world, advocates warn." Little has changed.

Ditto in other antiabortion states, which likewise provide the least support for poor women and children. Instead of new investments in anti-poverty programs, for instance, the focus has been on promoting adoptions and effectively outlawing private funds that use contributions to defray women's costs when they go to other states for abortions.

And, as the pro-abortion-rights Guttmacher Institute and Planned Parenthood have tracked, Republican-run states including Florida, Ohio, Missouri and Arkansas are channeling state taxpayers' dollars to so-called crisis pregnancy centers, mostly faith-based clinics that oppose abortion and often spread misinformation about its risks. At least 10 states have diverted money from the chief federal welfare program — Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF — to grants for the antiabortion centers.

In May 2022, when the news leaked that the Supreme Court would strike down Roe vs. Wade, and Republicans were promising they'd finally apply "pro-life" activism to what happens after birth, I made a mental note to check their progress in a year — right about now.

I suspected they'd renege. Sometimes you hate to be right.

@jackiekcalmes

DeSantis picks a cruel, inhuman fight with Newsom

ROBIN ABCARIAN

He hasn't admitted it yet, but let's say for the sake of argument that Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis is behind the recent ferrying of South American migrants from Texas to the steps of a Catholic church in Sacramento. What, exactly, would he be trying to accomplish?

Last year, there was some strained logic, I suppose, in a similar stunt, where DeSantis organized flights of migrants from the southern border to Martha's Vineyard.

You remember that, of course: DeSantis' minions rounded up several dozen Venezuelan asylum seekers, ranging in age from 2 to 68, in San Antonio in September, promised them jobs and financial assistance, then flew them in chartered planes at taxpayer expense to Massachusetts. The migrants said they were told they were heading to New York or Boston.

In the Republican political imagination, Martha's Vineyard is a liberal bastion whose residents have no grasp of the border "crisis."

"No one really cared about this in the national media perspective until 50 show up in Martha's Vineyard," DeSantis said at the time. (Translation: *Nobody was paying attention to me*.)

But in California, home to the busiest border crossing in the world, where the agricultural and service economies would collapse without the labor of immigrant workers — here illegally or not — what on Earth might someone like Cruella DeSantis be trying to prove?

After all, he's not running against California's well-liked Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom.

He's running against former President Trump, and a host of other Republican hopefuls, all of whom trail Trump in the polls. But the stranglehold that Trump has on the GOP means that DeSantis can't pick a fight with the former guy for fear of alienating the Republican base, not to mention fear of unleashing his toxic brand of rhetorical annihilation. (Trump's preferred insult for the Florida governor, "Ron DeSanctimonious," is ungainly, but apt.)

Anyway, DeSantis is probably hoping Chris Christie will be Trump's pain sponge, now that the combative former New Jersey governor has entered the race.

With the Republican presidential contest in full swing, DeSantis' targeting of Newsom with what is fast becoming a tired gambit counts as simple misplaced aggression. He's posturing for conservative and independent voters in a way that won't provoke Trump. In fact, using migrants as pawns is right up Trump's alley: cowardly, calculated and cruel.

And potentially illegal.

"Ron DeSantis, you small, pathetic man," Newsom tweeted Monday. "This isn't Martha's Vineyard. Kidnapping charges?"

To be fair, Newsom has been angling for his own share of national attention by picking on DeSantis. In the past year, Newsom has flown to Florida to criticize its governor for imposing his anti-LGBTQ+ values on Florida schools, challenged DeSantis to a debate, and run a TV ad inviting Floridians to "join us in California."

In DeSantis' apparent latest bid for the national spotlight, on Friday, 16 migrants from Colombia and Venezuela were flown to Sacramento from Texas via New Mexico. Twenty more arrived Monday. No arrangements had been made for their care; they were dropped off on the doorstep of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento with documents that appeared to be from the Florida state government, according to California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta.

DeSantis is not the only red state governor using human beings to tweak Democrats. The day after the migrants landed on Martha's Vineyard last summer, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sent two busloads of migrants to Vice President Kamala Harris' Washington doorstep.

Fortunately, pushback to this transparent political ploy is gaining steam.

A federal class action lawsuit was filed against DeSantis and other Florida officials in September by a civil rights law firm on behalf of the migrants who were flown to Martha's Vineyard. It alleges that the migrants' rights were violated when they were tricked into boarding planes and abandoned once they landed.

On Monday, the Texas Tribune reported, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office in Texas announced it had filed criminal charges against unnamed suspects in connection with the Martha's Vineyard caper. The charges include several counts of unlawful restraint, both misdemeanors and felonies, said the Tribune. It remains to be seen whether the local district attorney will prosecute.

And Bonta has launched an investigation into the circumstances under which the most recent group of transported asylum seekers landed in California.

"We are also evaluating potential criminal or civil action against those who transported or arranged for the transport of these vulnerable immigrants," Bonta said in a statement. "State-sanctioned kidnapping is not a public policy choice, it is immoral and disgusting."

What's especially pathetic about red state leaders trying to garner headlines by sending migrants to blue states is that local and state officials have no control over border policy.

That responsibility lies squarely with Congress, which has dithered for decades. Last month, the House passed an immigration bill that critics say would end asylum in the U.S. entirely and restart construction on Trump's failed border wall. President Biden has said he would veto the bill, which is very unlikely to pass in the Senate.

In any case, both parties have expressed the hope that the legislation, contentious as it is, could signal the start of serious bipartisan cooperation on the issue. "I'm looking for any port in a storm," Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told reporters last month.

So are the hundreds of thousands of poor, tired and huddled masses who come to these shores yearning to breathe free. Allowing cynics like DeSantis to exploit migrants to make political points tarnishes what we've always believed is best about us.

@robinkabcarian

Attorney is reelected as Cherokee Nation chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr. will lead most populous Native tribe in U.S. for four more years.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARIAM ZUHAIB Associated Press

CHUCK HOSKIN JR. won nearly 63% of the vote in a four-way race.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. has won reelection to another four-year term as leader of the most populous Native American tribe in the U.S.

Hoskin, a 48-year-old attorney, won nearly 63% of the vote in the four-way race for chief, a position similar to the governor of a state, according to results certified Monday by the tribe's Election Commission. Hoskin's running mate, Bryan Warner, won reelection as deputy chief with about 62% of the vote. Both needed to secure more than 50% to avoid a runoff.

"Today, we celebrate not only a victory but a renewal of our shared commitment to the principles that have guided our nation for centuries," Hoskin and Warner said in a statement. "Together, we will confront the challenges that lie ahead, united in our determination to uplift and empower every member of our Cherokee family."

Hoskin ran on a platform of protecting tribal sovereignty, investing in health and wellness for tribal citizens and funding efforts to protect its language.

During Hoskin's first four years in office, the Cherokee Nation has seen its tribal budget more than triple with the help of an infusion of federal funding, and its sprawling reservation in northeast Oklahoma was upheld in a landmark Supreme Court decision on tribal sovereignty. The nation has also seen its effort to have a tribal delegate seated in Congress pick up steam.

Three of the eight tribal council races on the ballot in Saturday's election will head to a runoff in July. Those elected to a seat on the 17-member council without a runoff are Julia Coates, Joe Deere, Kevin Easley Jr., Daryl Legg and Dora Patzkowski.

Based in Tahlequah, Okla., the Cherokee Nation has a population that has risen in recent years to more than 450,000 members. It is one of 39 federally recognized tribes with headquarters in a state once known as Indian Territory, where Indigenous people were forced to relocate in the 1800s as European settlers expanded westward.

MACKENZIE MAYS Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO Mayor Darrell Steinberg, speaking at a church Tuesday, said his city would be a refuge for the migrants. "We're going to welcome people," he said.

Sacramento groups open arms, wallets for migrants

[**Migrants,** from A1]

migrants are the first in their families to make it to the U.S. and are eager to work, she said. Some are married. One brought along a dog named Gieco.

When she asks them simple questions like what they want for dinner, they are timid. Anything is fine, they always say.

"It's been years since I've been able to pick my own clothes," one man told Flores, an organizer at Sacramento ACT, after a volunteer took him to the thrift store.

The identities of the migrants, who also came from countries including Colombia and Guatemala, remain undisclosed as the California Department of Justice investigates the incident. Meanwhile, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has threatened conservative presidential hopeful DeSantis with kidnapping charges.

Organizers said Tuesday that the migrants had arrived at the Texas border, where they were met by people claiming to be with a relocation program, promising housing and jobs. They were then shuttled to New Mexico and flown to Sacramento on a chartered plane.

Representatives for DeSantis — who flew migrants to liberal Martha's Vineyard as a statement against progressive immigration policies last year — said Tuesday that the Sacramento group consented to go to California.

Alecia Collins, a spokesperson for Florida's Division of Emergency Management, called the flights "voluntary relocation." A contractor ensured they made it safely, she said.

The statement included a video showing more than a dozen people signing paperwork and sitting aboard a private plane. It later shows one person saying they've arrived in California. The video includes images of people smiling and dancing, and one man speaks about his experience migrating through Central America.

The people working on the ground with them in Sacramento said that the migrants had no idea where they were headed. Their "American dream" quickly became "a nightmare," Trejo said, adding they were deceived.

Along with city and county officials, local church leaders and nonprofits have scrambled to help them.

With the help of donations and volunteers, faith-based groups such as Sacramento ACT and PICO California have secured temporary housing, clothes, food and cellphones for the migrants.

They have rushed to connect them with attorneys so that they can plan for upcoming immigration hearings. The county sent a nurse to perform checkups. Volunteers have also reached out to mental health counselors, dentists and hairstylists, as some have not had a haircut in months.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat and former leader of the state Senate, painted a picture of a cruel political trick gone wrong. The migrants are welcome here, he said, even as the city grapples with a homelessness crisis.

The migrants are safe, "well cared for" and in "good spirits," he said.

"I don't want to talk about who may have done this, who likely did this. They — he — are not worth dignifying," Steinberg said. "If this is an attempt to send a message, I suppose I can say, 'Message received.' But the way we're receiving the message may be different than whoever did this intends. We're going to welcome people."

Although Steinberg said he aimed to make Sacramento's mission apolitical, Newsom hasn't shied away from blaming DeSantis by name.

"Now, who's ultimately accountable and responsible? I mean, the buck should stop with Ron DeSantis and the games he's playing," Newsom told NBC's "Today" show in an interview Tuesday. "But it's the folks on the front lines that were doing the dirty work. And that's ultimately what we have to determine, is where the culpability lands and resides."

In a statement in response to the video from DeSantis' team, PICO California said they will continue to shield the migrants from the media to avoid their involvement in "political theater." Volunteers read from statements some of the migrants had written or recorded in voice memos, as to protect their identity.

"I could never had imagined what's happened in the last few days. My traveling has had a lot of difficult moments, but I thank God. I'm hoping to have a good life here and I was welcomed with open arms," one woman wrote. "I want to work and serve. We are here to help."

Times staff writer Melanie Mason contributed to this report.

Lawmaker's party switch inspires bill in N. Carolina

Democrats in the state Senate propose an early election to fill the seat again.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina state legislators who change party registrations midterm could be subject to an early election in order to keep the seat, according to a bill filed Tuesday by state Senate Democrats in response to Rep. Tricia Cotham's switch to the GOP two months ago.

The measure would be prospective and wouldn't apply to Cotham, whose move gave Republicans a veto-proof majority in both General Assembly chambers. It probably won't get traction in the GOP-controlled Legislature. Her altered allegiance helped Republicans pass abortion restrictions when they were able to override Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's veto on party-line votes.

Her change angered Democrats in Raleigh, the capital, and in her Mecklenburg County district where she won as a Democrat last fall by over 18 percentage points. Critics say those who voted for her are being robbed of representation. Speakers at a Tuesday news conference about the bill included Cotham's constituents.

Under the measure, when an elected or appointed General Assembly member switches party registration with more than six months remaining in their term, the seat will be declared vacant. The special election to complete the two-year term would be held within 90 days. The bill also would force a party switcher to refund recent campaign donations if a donor requests it.

"You can't completely switch teams, put on the other jersey and start scoring goals for the opposite team and have no recourse whatsoever from voters," Sen. Natasha Marcus, a Mecklenburg County Democrat and bill co-sponsor, told reporters. "So it's time we made this change."

As elsewhere, party switches in North Carolina are uncommon. Rep. Bill Brisson of Duplin County switched from the Democrats to the Republicans in 2017.

HANNAH SCHOENBAUM AP

STATE REP. Tricia Cotham won election as a Democrat in November.

Another bill sponsor, Sen. Michael Garrett of Guilford County, said he didn't expect the measure to advance anytime soon "because it's a little too close to the incident in Mecklenburg County."

But he said the proposal is "good government. It is about restoring voters' confidence."

The bill doesn't identify Cotham by name, but its preamble referred to specific details about Cotham's race in November by identifying the exact number of votes cast in her election.

PGA Tour, LIV Golf to merge in a shocking turnabout

[**Golf,** from A1]

alists who stood by the PGA Tour, sometimes turning down the guarantee of generational wealth, and the players many viewed as traitorous for switching sides to accept money that was "dirty" because of Saudi Arabia's history of human rights violations.

And now all is forgotten?

Consider the case of rising star Will Zalatoris. He reportedly turned down $130 million from LIV earlier this year.

He was runner-up at the 2021 Masters, lost in a playoff at the 2022 PGA Championship and nearly forced a playoff at last year's U.S. Open.

Zalatoris pulled out of the Masters in April just before his first-round tee time because of a back injury, and he later announced he had undergone surgery and was done playing for the year.

Lots of players have returned from significant injuries to great success, so that's a well-traveled path. But that safety net of money would be nice right now, especially with that morality stigma seemingly evaporated.

While Phil Mickelson, the face of LIV, was gleeful about the merger — "Awesome day today," he tweeted with a smiley-face emoji — players who stuck with the PGA Tour sounded blindsided.

"I love finding out morning news on Twitter," tweeted Collin Morikawa, who could have commanded a fortune had he jumped to LIV.

Michael Kim, who likewise made the jump from Cal to the PGA Tour, was more direct: "Very curious how many people knew this deal was happening. About 5-7 people? Player run organization right?" he tweeted, followed by a shrugging emoji.

This isn't just a peace treaty, it's a merger between warring factions.

Who could have imagined this two weeks ago during the awkward trophy presentation at the PGA Championship, when Seth Waugh, chief executive of the PGA of America, looked as if he would rather be anywhere than standing beside LIV's Brooks Koepka for an obligatory photo op?

The two didn't shake hands, and Waugh said something to Koepka as he walked away, leaving the golfer to smile and shake his head as if to say, "What's up with that guy?"

Brandel Chamblee, analyst for the Golf Channel who has been one of LIV's most outspoken critics, tweeted a week ago that LIV wasn't so much a sports entity as it was Saudi Arabia and its crown prince "trying to hide their atrocities and launder its reputation by buying sports stars. Any yielding to or agreement with them is a deal with a murderous dictator."

After news of the merger, Koepka tweeted: "Welfare Check on Chamblee."

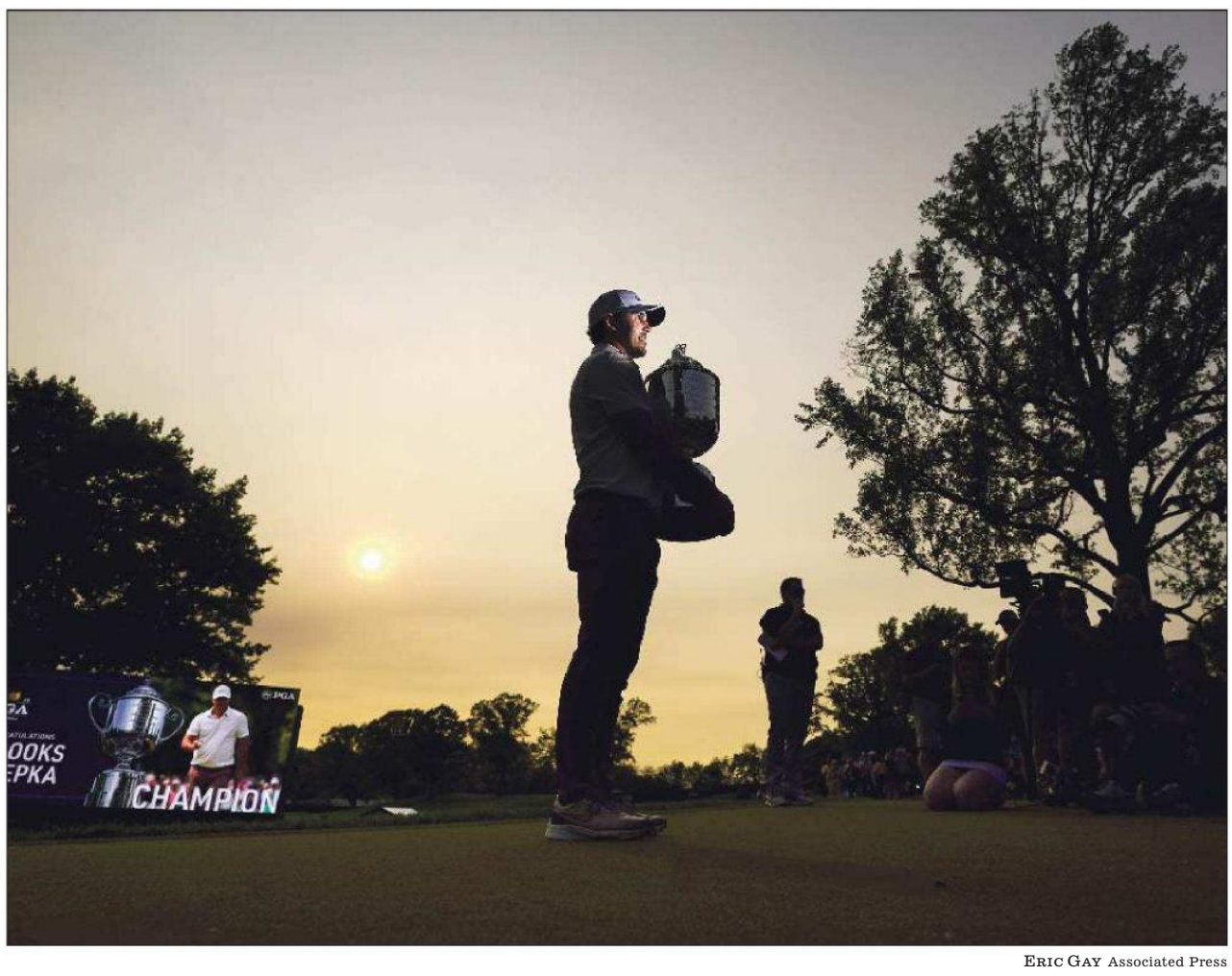
This isn't over. This isn't unity. The fallout is only beginning.

This is a victory for LIV Golf. The PGA Tour caved, and the landscape has already changed. Acrimony aside, those changes benefit the players in the form of more autonomy and significantly bigger purses.

On another note, it's a bummer for Los Angeles Country Club, which next week plays host to the U.S. Open for the first time. The major championship hasn't taken place in L.A. for 75 years.

Now, instead of inquiries about their impressions of the spectacular North Course, players will be peppered with questions about the merger.

Everybody's under the same umbrella now. But the storm is just rolling in.



ERIC GAY Associated Press

BROOKS KOEPKA, a former PGA Tour star who joined LIV Golf last year, poses after winning the PGA Championship on May 21. On Tuesday, the PGA Tour announced it is joining forces with the Saudi-backed LIV.

Where's outcry over Florida's Sacramento migrant flight?

Pro-right Catholics so vocal about Dodgers' Pride Night now mum about diocese dump.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

In nine days, the Los Angeles Dodgers will host Pride Night and honor the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence with a Community Hero Award. Conservative Catholic activists are marking off the days like a homophobic Advent calendar.

They're the ones who originally pressured the Blue Crew to rescind the honor from the Sisters, a charity group whose members dress in ornate habits to ridicule religious zealotry, yet who also do the good work that nuns do. The Dodgers reinvited the Sisters after a public outcry, causing the conservatives to call for a protest of Pride Night and a boycott of the Dodgers.

The boycott will be about as successful as the San Diego Padres this season. But that hasn't stopped bishops from California to Texas, Wisconsin to Nebraska from lining up to take their swings at the team and the Sisters. Typical of this Boo Crew is Robert Barron, bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester in Minnesota, a former auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire, a multimillion-dollar ministry that has made him one of the most prominent Catholic voices in the country.

On a Twitter video posted May 25, he slammed the Sisters as an "anti-Catholic hate group," ridiculed the Dodgers' "pathetic apology" to them and said anti-Catholicism was the last acceptable prejudice in America. He then made a direct appeal to "my Hispanic friends," arguing that they should be especially offended.

"This is the religion of your family," Barron said. "Of your *abuela* and *abuelo*, of your *familia*, of your *tradición*."

Meanwhile, Latinos and the church were used and abused by anti-immigrant forces in California last week — and Barron, along with his babbling brother bishops and the boycotters, has yet to say a word.

I'm talking about the Friday drop-off of 16 Venezuelan and Colombian migrants at the headquarters of the Diocese of Sacramento.

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said the documents the migrants carried showed that their journey on a charter flight from El Paso to New Mexico, then to Sacramento was arranged by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. That Sunshine State government agency had previously arranged similar trips to Democrat-run cities and states at the behest of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, whose budget last year set aside $12 million for the task.

[See **Arellano,** B2]

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

PROTESTERS outside a Glendale Unified School District meeting on Tuesday face off over teaching sexual identity to kids. L.A. County supervisors, meanwhile, passed motions in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

Glendale protesters clash; 3 are arrested

Fights break out over the schools' teaching of sex and gender as the board votes on Pride Month

BY JEREMY CHILDS AND CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

Three people were arrested Tuesday at protests held outside a meeting of the Glendale Unified School District board, where pro- and anti-LGBTQ+ demonstrators faced off over how schools teach gender and sexuality.

Law enforcement declared an unlawful assembly after fighting broke out outside the building, officials said. The situation temporarily disrupted the meeting, which was about an hour into public comments on an agenda item calling for recognition of June as Pride Month.

The board planned to reconvene later in the night to cast votes.

Protesters had swarmed outside the building before the start of the proceedings, with many documenting the scene with their smartphones. Those who were protesting the board's LGBTQ+ policies chanted, "Leave our kids alone" while naming each of the five members of the board.

An attendee named Megan, who declined to share her last name for fear of retaliation and who said she has a child graduating from a GUSD school Wednesday, called the anti-LGBTQ+ protests "heartbreaking."

"This is a great community; my son has received a great education here," Megan said.

The public comment portion regarding the agenda item on Pride Month was cut short due to the shelter-in-place order.

[See **Glendale,** B5]

COUNTY AIMS TO BOOST LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Supervisors pass motions to form an advisory commission and improve healthcare services.

BY REBECCA ELLIS

Los Angeles County Supervisors on Tuesday passed two motions intended to improve the lives and health of their LGBTQ+ constituents, citing "horrific" attacks by policymakers on gay and transgender youth across the nation.

The first, authored by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Lindsey Horvath, aims to improve the county's gender-affirming healthcare services. The second, authored by Solis and Supervisor Janice Hahn, creates an advisory commission focused exclusively on advancing LGBTQ+ policies.

In the last year, conservative lawmakers have flooded statehouses with bills targeting gay, lesbian, nonbinary and transgender youth. These have included proposals to ban books, outlaw classroom discussions on sexual orientation and gender identity and bar trans athletes from competing. Solis said she wants the two motions to set L.A. County apart from legislatures that are targeting the LGBTQ+ community.

"Those bills are absolutely, in my opinion, unconscionable," Solis said. "Let's stand firm and make sure that we don't go in the opposite direction and allow for hateful policies to be expanded."

County leaders have six months to form the 15-person commission responsible for advising the board and county's 30-plus departments on policies, budgets and programs that will support the LGBTQ+ community.

Each of the five supervisors will nominate two people; the county's other three elected officials — the sheriff, the district attorney and the assessor — will each pick one; and two members will be picked through an application process.

Supervisor Holly Mitchell called for the commission to include transgender, gen-

[See **LGBTQ+,** B5]

New trial in 1983 killing of L.A. cop

Kenneth Gay, now 65, returns to court after his conviction for shooting a motorcycle officer was tossed out.

BY JAMES QUEALLY

A little more than four decades have passed since Paul Verna's final day as a police officer.

The 35-year-old motorcycle cop thought he was making a routine traffic stop on June 2, 1983, prosecutors said. But he had pulled over a vehicle occupied by four people who'd committed a string of armed robberies in the San Fernando Valley in recent weeks.

As Verna approached the vehicle, prosecutors say, Raynard Cummings shot him once from the back seat of the car before the man described as his "partner in crime," Kenneth Gay, exited the vehicle and emptied a revolver into Verna's body.

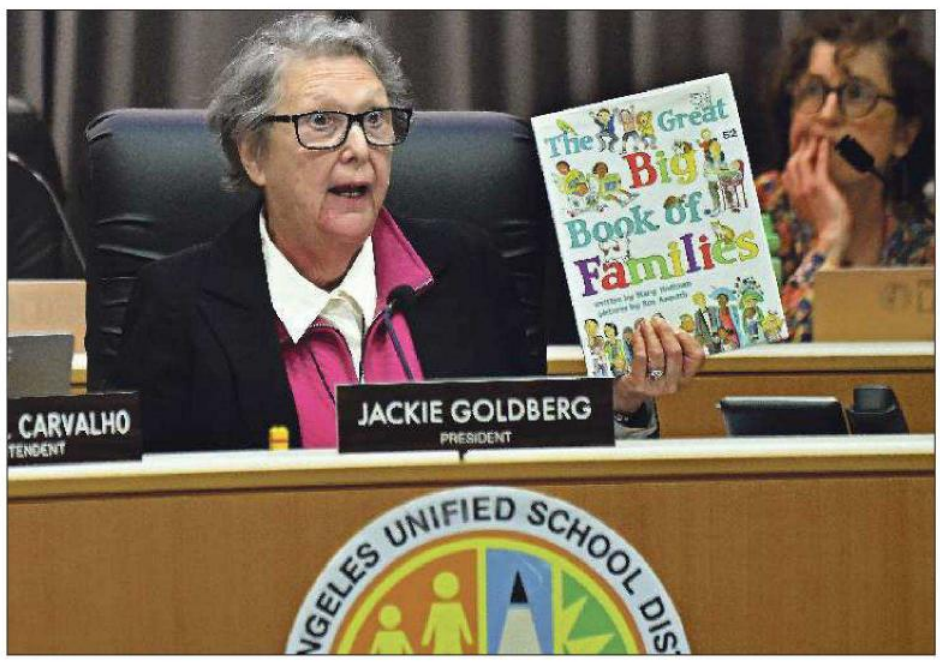
Both men were convicted in 1985 of killing Verna and were later sentenced to death. But Gay, 65, was back in front of a jury Tuesday, hoping for a second chance at an acquittal in the same San Fernando courthouse.

Gay's conviction was thrown out in 2020 after the California Supreme Court decided that his initial trial lawyer was incompetent. That left Deputy Dist. Atty. David Ayvazian to try to convince a jury that, despite the legal headaches that led to a new trial, Gay's guilt remains unquestioned.

"Even 40 years and four days after this man was murdered, nothing has changed. What was true on June 2, 1983 ... is true today," Ayvazian said Tuesday to a gallery filled with Verna's loved ones and fellow LAPD officers. "And the truth is that Kenneth Gay, along with his crime partner, murdered Officer Verna."

Gay, Cummings and their wives were arrested together in a car in San Diego County after the shooting. Police said they found Verna's gun near Gay; Ayvazian referred to it as a "trophy" in

[See **Trial,** B4]



WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

L.A. school board member Jackie Goldberg holds up "The Great Big Book of Families," a book about diversity that was attacked at an elementary school.

Newsom enters Temecula fray over booted textbook

Governor calls out the school board president who called LGBTQ+ icon Harvey Milk a 'pedophile'

BY NATHAN SOLIS

Gov. Gavin Newsom blasted a Temecula school board president who voted along with a majority of the panel to reject a curriculum because a textbook mentioned gay rights activist and San Francisco politician Harvey Milk.

During a public hearing on the curriculum, Temecula Valley Unified School District board President Joseph Komrosky called Milk a "pedophile." In a Twitter post, Newsom fired back, calling Komrosky "ignorant."

The feud has erupted amid a nationwide trend of book bans and attacks against schools for supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

A majority of Temecula Valley Unified's five-person board rejected on May 16 a new social studies curriculum, which included a textbook that would be assigned to the district's 18 elementary schools in southern Riverside County.

A supplemental section of the book includes a biography of Milk, a pioneering gay activist who served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. He was gunned down, along with Mayor George Moscone, the following year by a disgruntled former city supervisor.

The Temecula school board's conservative majority claimed that parents did not have enough involve-

[See **Book,** B5]

O.C. board limits what flags can fly at county sites

Supervisors permit only U.S. government and military-related banners, effectively barring pride colors. **B3**

'Old hippie' aided L.A.'s homeless

The mayor's Inside Safe camp clearances were "built on the shoulders" of Jeanette Rowe, who has died at 72. **B5**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Horse racing's Triple Crown format might need a change. **B10**

About two dozen orcas spotted near S.F.

The unusually large pod seen near the Farallon Islands was possibly gathering after a successful hunt.

By Vanessa Arredondo

Michael Pierson Oceanic Society

BETWEEN 20 and 24 killer whales — possibly a meeting of six or seven families — were spotted May 7 near the Farallon Islands.

Michael Pierson, a naturalist with the nonprofit ecotourism organization Oceanic Society, has traveled from the San Francisco coast to the Farallon Islands many times during peak whale-watching season. But on May 7, he decided to deviate from the usual course.

"It really worked in our favor," Pierson said.

Pierson and others spotted a few humpback whales in the distance but then discovered an unusually large group of orcas.

Off the coast of California, orcas are most commonly seen in the deep canyons of Monterey Bay, about 100 miles south, said Nancy Black, a marine biologist with Monterey Bay Whale Watch. But they are known to travel between Southern California and southeast Alaska.

"It's amazing being able to understand the range that these animals are covering and where they're spending the majority of their time," Pierson said.

Between 20 and 24 killer whales were spotted near the Farallon Islands on May 7, possibly a meeting of six or seven families, or matrilines, celebrating the spoils of a good hunt, Pierson said.

"Their bellies are full, and they tend to be in a little bit better of a mood when they're nice and stuffed," he said.

Marine mammal migration season is at its peak in California, but spotting a pod larger than four or six orcas near the islands is a rare treat. The tourists on the Oceanic Society boat happened upon a happy scene, but there was probably a gruesome sight hours earlier.

> 'Many of them are coming to the islands this time of year looking for some pinnipeds to turn into a potential meal.'
>
> — Michael Pierson, Oceanic Society

Transient orcas, the most common ecotype of killer whales in the North Pacific, hunt pinnipeds — marine mammals with flippers, such as sea lions and harbor seals.

The orcas may have been drawn to the Farallon Islands to prey on sea lions and seals that arrive at the beaches to give birth.

"Many of them are coming to the islands this time of year looking for some pinnipeds to turn into a potential meal," Pierson said.

Black, who is also director of the nonprofit California Killer Whale Project, said orcas prefer Monterey Bay because it is the only place on the West Coast that has deep waters close to the shore. The canyons allow orcas to sneak up on gray whale calves migrating to Alaska in spring, in what is the most dangerous part of their journey, she said.

Killer whales may also be seen in "hot spots" like the Farallon and Channel islands.

Some orcas travel from great distances, said Black, who noted that four "exotic" Canadian killer whales were spotted for the first time in Monterey Bay on Monday and could be headed to Southern California.

Photos taken during encounters aid researchers in studying individual orcas and pods without disrupting their habitats. According to Pierson, individual killer whales can be identified by the unique shape and markings of the dorsal fin.

The California Killer Whale Project has used photos to identify the orcas that travel past California and has followed one family for four generations. Female orcas live 60 to 80 years, and males live 50 to 60.

"We haven't even been studying them as far as their life span can be," Black said.

Pierson said the Oceanic Society spotted some familiar fins during the May encounter, such as CA51, also known as Bumper, a playful orca that likes to get close to boats. Bumper's dorsal fin is "curled over ever so slightly," with a notch missing near the center, he said.

The group also spotted orcas known to frequent the Oregon and Washington coasts.

Pierson thinks there are more orcas around the Farallon Islands than scientists see, but they tend to stick to the deeper waters of the continental shelf.

"Just like with people, some are going to be a little bit more shy and stay away from the boat. Others are going to be a little bolder and swim right up," he said.

Catholic conservatives mum on migrant flights

[**Arellano,** from B1]

After days of silence, a spokesperson for the agency characterized the flight, along with a subsequent one on Monday, as a "voluntary relocation."

The spokesperson, Alecia Collins, also said that a contractor "ensured they made it safely to" Catholic Charities, a nationwide nonprofit that helps the poor but which Collins characterized as "used and funded by the federal government."

DeSantis, who's running for president, hasn't publicly commented on the matter. But when the Division of Emergency Management transported over 50 migrants to Martha's Vineyard in September, the governor snidely declared, "We are not a sanctuary state, and it's better [for migrants] to be able to go to a sanctuary jurisdiction."

That's what makes the wholesale dumping of migrants on the Diocese of Sacramento so vile. Florida is making a mockery of Catholicism as much it's taking a jab at Newsom, who is a frequent DeSantis critic (and vice versa).

Since the founding of this country, no Christian denomination has centered poor immigrants and refugees the way Catholicism has. The church knew that its faithful — Germans, Irish, Italians, Czechs, Poles, Italians, Latinos and so many more — needed a safe space to maintain their devotions and customs while navigating a new land.

Sanctuary is at the core of Catholic beliefs because it's all over the Bible, from the Pentateuch to Psalms, the Gospel to the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, where the Apostle Paul wrote that Christians "are the temple of the living God" and thus should act as such toward others.

This embrace of the poor and meek, however, has long angered non-Catholics, who stereotyped each wave of Catholic migrants as unwashed and ignorant and the church as an exploitative entity concerned only with itself.

The DeSantis administration's Sacramento stunt is nothing more than a cruel joke on the church that takes advantage of Catholic goodwill while cleaning its own hands of any responsibility.

And this isn't the first time a Republican governor has pulled something like this: Last year, Texas flew eight Venezuelan men to Sacramento with no money and the address of Catholic Charities.

The Book of Proverbs tells believers to not mess with the poor, or "the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them." Tell that to the conservative Catholic activists who are decrying the Dodgers.

These people call Catholics like me apostates for opposing the church's doubling down on culture war issues at the expense of social justice. Since the rise of Donald Trump, they have conveniently overlooked the part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website stating that church teachings have "consistently reinforced our moral obligation to treat the stranger as we would treat Christ himself."

They roll their eyes at statements like the one Pope Francis issued last month that Catholics should ensure there will "always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone."

Conservative Catholic activists instead have doubled down on the right's anti-immigrant war, arguing that the people lining up on the southern border to enter the United States aren't like Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and thus deserve no refuge. They filled Trump's Cabinet and defended his policies while still attending Mass with a straight face.

Tellingly, the three main architects of Florida's migrant-shipping strategy have ties to the church: DeSantis is a cradle Catholic; his chief of staff James Uthmeier teaches religious education at St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral in Tallahassee, and public safety czar Larry Keefe used to be president of a Florida chapter of Catholic Charities.

Meanwhile, Catholics who actually read the Bible have stepped up to help the migrants stranded in Sacramento. Area nonprofits are offering shelter and food, while Sacramento Bishop Jaime Soto told the media, "We recognize the humble presence of Jesus, and we hear his call to stand by" the migrants.

Humble advocacy in times of crisis is what good Catholics do because Jesus said good works are best done outside the limelight. He didn't like the Bishop Barrons of the world, describing them in the Gospel of Matthew as standing "on the street corners to be seen by men."

In fact, Christ had a name for them: hypocrites.

Charles Krupa Associated Press

FLORIDA GOV. Ron DeSantis at a campaign event in Salem, N.H. At the behest of the presidential hopeful, charter flights of migrants have been flown to Democrat-run cities like the one sent to Sacramento on Friday.

> 'We are not a sanctuary state, and it's better [for migrants] to be able to go to a sanctuary jurisdiction.'
>
> — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis

Lottery results

Tonight's SuperLotto Plus
Jackpot: $65 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

Tonight's Powerball Jackpot:
$285 million
Sales close at 7 p.m.

For Monday, June 5, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

2-31-45-46-49—**Powerball 20**
Jackpot: $269 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	1	$76,029
4	28	$517
3 + P-ball	73	$206
3	2,004	$8
2 + P-ball	1,715	$9
1 + P-ball	13,659	$5
P-ball only	32,758	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

6-12-23-29-57—**Mega 4**
Jackpot: $218 million

Fantasy Five: 18-20-25-27-31

Daily Four: 1-4-9-4

Daily Three (midday): 7-7-6

Daily Three (evening): 0-3-5

Daily Derby:
(8) Gorgeous George
(6) Whirl Win
(12) Lucky Charms
Race time: 1:43.67

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Pride flags are limited in O.C.

Supervisors allow only government and military-related banners to be flown on county property.

By Summer Lin

Raul Roa Times Community News

A PRIDE flag is represented at the Orange County fair event building in 2020. Such flags will no longer be permitted after Tuesday's vote by county supervisors.

Pride flags will not fly at Orange County government-owned properties after a vote Tuesday by the county Board of Supervisors.

Supervisors voted to permit only U.S. government and military-related flags to be flown at county properties, effectively barring Pride flags.

The policy, proposed by Supervisor Andrew Do, stipulates that only flags representing the U.S., state and county, as well as the flag for prisoners of war and military members missing in action, will be raised at county properties, including parks.

Supervisor Katrina Foley, who was against the measure, told The Times on Tuesday that the vote was "part of a larger picture of trying to coalesce a viewpoint together that is not about progress, not about a diverse, inclusive community, but holding on to some remnant of the past that isn't really reflective of mainstream America."

The measure was supported by Supervisors Do, Don Wagner and Doug Chaffee and opposed by Foley and Vicente Sarmiento.

Do, however, has said that his measure wasn't motivated by a single social issue and highlighted his support for the LGBTQ+ community, according to media reports.

Foley said the flag measure was proposed after she and Sarmiento requested last week that the board agenda include consideration of flying the Pride flag at county buildings in June.

According to Foley, the request was rejected by Chairman Wagner, who said it was submitted past the deadline. Foley said, however, that requests submitted past the deadline had been added to the agenda in the past.

"I don't believe for a second," she said, that the flag measure "wasn't directly correlated to our request."

Over the last year and a half, Foley said, the rhetoric at board meetings has become increasingly bigoted against the LGBTQ+ community.

Supervisor Wagner said the request "inexplicably came too late" for it to be automatically added to the agenda.

"Nevertheless, I still agreed to put the question on the agenda, as was demonstrated by the extensive discussion in the context of the motion by Supervisor Do," he said. "The board took a vote and rejected the Foley/Sarmiento position after a robust debate.""

Supervisor Do didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

State Sen. Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas) also condemned the decision by the O.C. Board of Supervisors, saying it was a "clear message of disrespect and intolerance."

"As Mayor of Encinitas, I endorsed the flying of the Pride flag at City Hall because it is important for government to show it is inclusive and welcoming to all the people it serves," she said in a statement. "I am proud that Encinitas became the first city in San Diego County to do so."

The Orange County vote came as the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors — also on Tuesday — passed two motions aimed at improving the health and lives of LGBTQ+ people.

Supervisors Hilda Solis and Lindsey Horvath proposed a motion to improve gender-affirming healthcare services in the county. Solis and Supervisor Janice Hahn also created the first-ever LGBTQ+ Commission in L.A. County, which will recommend new programs and policies to the board.

"When there are more inclusive legislation and policies that are welcoming and recognize the impact and contributions of our LGBTQ+ community, there are significant positive impacts on someone's overall health," Solis wrote on Twitter about the vote.

Hahn tweeted that, with the input of the new commission, "we'll make sure that the County of Los Angeles can better serve & celebrate our LGBTQ+ community for decades to come."

Proposals to permit and limit the raising of Pride flags come amid a contentious climate in which lawmakers have attempted to restrict the rights of LGBTQ+ communities by banning books, barring classroom discussions, prohibiting drag performances in public spaces, outlawing gender-affirming procedures or hormone replacement therapies for minors and prohibiting trans athletes from competing in sports.

Last week, a pride flag flew over a Los Angeles County building — the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration — for the first time.

The Redlands City Council voted 3-2 last month not to fly a Pride flag because flying an unofficial flag violates city policies.

The Huntington Beach City Council also voted in February to limit where flags can fly on city property and to no longer fly the rainbow flag at City Hall.

Troubled ex-TV anchor arrested twice in Berkeley

Frank Somerville has spoken publicly about his struggles with mental health issues and substance abuse.

By Summer Lin

Former Bay Area news anchor Frank Somerville, who has spoken publicly about his struggles with mental health and substance abuse issues, was arrested twice in one night after domestic disturbances at his family's home in Berkeley, according to authorities.

Officers responded about 6:36 p.m. Monday to a "family altercation" at a home on Indian Rock Avenue, the Berkeley Police Department said in a news release. Officers detained Somerville and spoke with all parties, determining that Somerville was "intoxicated and showed up regarding ongoing family issues at the residence."

Somerville was told to leave by family members but refused, and a physical altercation broke out after he threatened one person, according to police. Both parties suffered injuries that weren't life-threatening and were treated at the scene by Berkeley Fire Department personnel and released.

Somerville's brother Mark told the Berkeley Scanner that Somerville had shown up at the house and threatened their 91-year-old father. When Mark told him to leave, he said, they got into a fight outside the home and Mark detained Somerville until officers arrived.

Somerville was arrested on suspicion of criminal threats, public intoxication, assault and violating probation, and was taken to the Berkeley jail, authorities said.

About 3:26 a.m., police received another call from the home on Indian Rock Avenue saying that Somerville had returned and was ringing the doorbell.

Somerville had gone back to the house to get his car after being released from jail, left and returned again to retrieve something he had lost the night before, police said. Somerville kept ringing the doorbell until one of his family members called the police.

Officers found Somerville sitting in his car and showing "objective signs and symptoms of public intoxication," authorities said. He was arrested on suspicion of DUI and violating his probation, and was taken back to the Berkeley jail.

As of Tuesday morning, he remained in custody and had been transferred to Santa Rita Jail, an Alameda County lockup.

Somerville was an anchor for KTVU-TV Channel 2, a Fox affiliate based in Oakland, for three decades. In June 2021, Somerville took a leave of absence after he appeared to slur his words on-air and struggled to read the script. He said later in a Facebook post that he had taken two Ambien pills by accident.

A few months later, after Gabby Petito was killed by her fiance on a cross-country trip, Somerville was suspended for defying his supervisors by attempting to add racial commentary to a broadcast script about the case, noting that Black women are far more likely to be killed in domestic violence but almost never receive national media attention.

In December 2021, Somerville was arrested on suspicion of DUI after a car collision in Oakland. KTVU decided not to renew Somerville's contract.

Somerville said in a December 2022 post on Facebook that he didn't believe that the DUI had any bearing on KTVU's decision to let him go. He attributed that decision to "a disagreement" and said it came after "an accumulation of a lot of different things, including serious mental health issues."

Covering the killings of young people in Oakland made him feel like he had post-traumatic stress disorder, he said, adding that he "really needed someone to talk to."

"But the last thing I was going to do was tell the station that I was hurting," he wrote. "Main anchors don't do that. So I tried to deal with it on my own [with] prescription drugs [and] alcohol. It was the worst decision I ever made but I felt that I had no other choice."

Alleged tipper of SoFi food carts is fired

By Andrew J. Campa

A man accused of overturning a pair of food carts on a busy street outside a concert at SoFi Stadium on Saturday evening has been fired, stadium officials confirmed Tuesday morning.

"The individual involved was employed by a third-party vendor, and we have been advised that he has since been terminated," read an emailed statement from SoFi Stadium officials, who did not identify the man.

"Maintaining a safe environment is our number one priority, and we will continue to regularly evaluate staffing and protocols across all of our vendors to ensure an enjoyable entertainment experience."

A TikTok video posted by street vendor activist Edin Alex Enamorado shows the mess created by the incident, including dozens of bacon-wrapped hot dogs, buns, onions and various condiments tossed on the ground outside the stadium.

The incident took place shortly after 11 p.m. Saturday as fans were leaving a Romeo Santos concert, Enamorado said.

Vendors move their carts close to the stadium's exits to catch departing patrons, Enamorado said. The vendors told him that one of the workers at the stadium instructed them to step back off the street and then lost his temper when they ignored his directives, he said.

"He came outside and told one of the vendors, 'I thought I told you to back up,' and that's when he got upset," said Enamorado, who did not witness the incident himself. "That's when he pushed down both carts."

One of the carts was being staffed temporarily by three children, including the 12-year-old daughter of the cart operator, Lesbia Tol, who had briefly stepped away, Enamorado said.

Enamorado said the girl suffered a bruise to her leg during the incident.

The girl, Marlyn Roquel, told KTLA that she was terrified. "When he pulled the cart, I start crying because I was scared about it," Marilyn said.

Graicee Cifuentes, Enamorado's niece who attended the concert, said none of the vendors were blocking walking paths.

"No one was on SoFi property, so there's no reason for this kind of reaction," she said.

Cifuentes said that there were 20 to 30 vendors present at the concert's conclusion and that the atmosphere was relaxed.

"You have sheriffs walking around along with other SoFi employees watching and hanging out. Nobody was bothering anybody," she said. "Except for that one guy."

Los Angeles County sheriff 's deputies, who were providing security outside SoFi, separated the angry SoFi worker from the carts, vendors and some patrons, the video showed. The worker reentered the stadium and deputies said that any investigation would be handled by Inglewood police.

Multiple calls to Inglewood police Monday and Tuesday have not been returned.

Enamorado said he was unaware of any charges being filed.

SoFi officials initially did not confirm a stadium employee had been at the scene on Monday evening, stating they were "aware that an incident occurred Saturday night outside of the stadium and are working with law enforcement to look into the matter."

By Tuesday morning, stadium officials confirmed the worker who had been involved had been fired.

Brian van der Brug Los Angeles Times

A BURNT hymnal from a blaze in February 2022 at St. John's United Methodist Church in Watts.

State tries to stem abuse in disabled parking placards

By Saumya Gupta

Renewing a permanent disabled parking placard in California is going to take a little more work, but it's how the state plans to combat widespread permit fraud.

By June 30, those holding a disabled parking placard for six or more years will need to renew it in order to keep it valid. This is the first year the protocol is in effect under Senate Bill 611, which passed in 2017 and now requires holders to sign a form from the California Department of Motor Vehicles every six years verifying that they are still alive and that they are still in need of a placard in order to keep them.

SB 611 was passed six months after a state audit in April 2017 found that the DMV wasn't making sure that people issued placards for disabled parking should actually have them. The audit also concluded that the agency hadn't canceled tens of thousands of permits issued to people who had died, and some placards were misused by family members.

Permanent disabled parking placards provide privileges, such as parking next to a blue curb and in a street-metered parking space at no cost, to disabled people. The placard is able to move between vehicles.

"Unfortunately there's a fair amount of misuse," DMV Director Steve Gordon said. "I think the legislative intent was to make sure that people are legitimately in the program, so they just wanted to ask people, you know, periodically, just to attest as sort of mild road bump, say, 'Hey, do you still want to belong in this program and do you want a replacement placard?'"

Gordon said that one of the DMV's investigatory arms duties is to look at placard fraud by going to various events. Citations can lead to fines that range from $250 to $1,000.

People can apply for a placard online, by mail or in person by filling out an application and having a medical professional such as a physician, surgeon or nurse practitioner provide a certificate of disability on the specified application section.

Those who received their original placard before January 2019 will be required to sign the form, according to the DMV.

This includes about 2 million people, and so far, about 1.3 million people have been verified needing a placard, Gordon said.

The DMV started to send out notice forms to renew late last year and are continuing to send out reminders, he added. Before this, the DMV automatically renewed placards every two years. It will continue to do so but will ask placard holders to verify every sixth year after receiving their original placard.

The DMV also compares its placard records every year with vital records from the California Department of Public Health to check if someone is still alive.

The renewal form does not require holders to recertify their disability and show proof of "true full name," according to Senate Bill 611.

The renewal form is free and can be submitted in three different ways. Those needing to renew can sign electronically through the DMV's online application or by scanning the QR code printed on the mailed renewal notice. People needing to renew can also sign the form attached to the bottom of their renewal and mail it in.

After the DMV receives the signed application, the person will receive their placard within 10 days, according the DMV.

"We want to reduce the number of placards that are out there to make sure they're only in the hands of people that are supposed to have them and hopefully only intended to use either by the primary holder or maybe by someone who's driving the primary holder to make sure that they are properly used in society," Gordon said.

Second fire in 2 years occurs at Watts church

By Lila Seidman

A fire has scorched a nearly 100-year-old church in Watts for the second time in less than two years, prompting an investigation into the cause of the blaze, authorities said.

The fire erupted in the sanctuary of St. John's United Methodist Church around 6:50 p.m. Saturday and extended into the balcony, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Officials said it took 32 firefighters about 20 minutes to put out the flames in the two-story house of worship in the 1700 block of Santa Ana Boulevard. No injuries were reported.

An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire at the 2,000-square-foot church, said Brian Humphrey, a spokesperson for LAFD. Such an investigation is standard when a fire occurs at a house of worship, according to fire officials.

"It's obviously a priority being a house of worship," Humphrey said. "The only thing that takes greater priority are fatal fires."

Saturday's fire occurred as St. John's was undergoing extensive renovations from another conflagration that damaged it about 16 months ago.

In February 2022, a fire broke out near the church and spread into the sanctuary. Photos taken in the aftermath show blackened walls and singed prayer books.

Worshipers moved services to the parking lot after the fire, where they were still being held as of this weekend.

The church, built in the Spanish Colonial style with a red-tile roof and beige exterior, is celebrating 97 years of ministry in the Watts community, according to its Facebook page.

Suspect in 1983 murder of cop is back in court

BORIS YARO Los Angeles Times

KENNETH GAY, left, shown with his attorney in 2000, was sentenced to death for the 1983 murder of an LAPD officer. The state Supreme Court tossed the conviction in 2020, saying his trial lawyer was incompetent.

[**Trial,** from B1]
his opening statements.

Defense attorney Monica Thelen argued that two tragedies occurred the day of Verna's murder: the officer's killing and the first step toward the conviction of "a truly innocent man."

Thelen argued that Cummings was the sole gunman and dismissed as "absolutely ridiculous" the prosecution's theory that he passed the gun to Gay to finish off Verna.

Thelen also pointed to comments Cummings made while in custody in which he claimed credit for Verna's death.

"I'm no ghost. The only ghost I know is Officer Verna, and I put six in him," Cummings said while in county jail, after another inmate shouted "Dead man walking," according to Thelen.

Ayvazian showed pictures of Gay taken in 1983, when he had frizzy hair and a short mustache — a stark contrast to the bald, elderly man who was wheeled into court Tuesday wearing a sweater vest.

At a 1985 trial, Ayvazian noted, four witnesses identified Gay specifically or a "light-skinned person as the outside shooter." Gay is biracial; Cummings is Black.

Gay, Cummings and their girlfriends had carried out at least five armed robberies in the San Fernando Valley between April 1983 and the day of Verna's murder, according to Ayvazian. The spree was broken up by a quick trip to Las Vegas, where both couples got married.

In his opening argument, Ayvazian said the men had beaten elderly victims during several of the robberies, displaying graphic images of store owners bruised and battered.

When Verna pulled over the car carrying the couples, Ayvazian said, Gay opened fire out of fear of going to prison.

"When confronted with the real possibility of getting caught, he killed a man doing his job," the prosecutor said.

Pamela Cummings took a plea deal and testified that Gay shot Verna, a statement she repeated on the stand Tuesday afternoon. Thelen has said Pamela lied to protect herself and her then-husband, noting that she was desperate to be spared from prison after being linked to a cop killing. On the stand Tuesday, Pamela said she hadn't spoken to Cummings in more than two decades.

Gay's fight for a new trial has spanned decades. His death sentence was initially overturned due to questions about his attorney's competence. A second jury was assembled to decide whether Gay should face life in prison or execution. He was again sentenced to death, but that verdict was also reversed based on competence issues.

Gay has argued that his former attorney, Daye Shinn, took the role under fraudulent circumstances, advised him to admit to incriminating details and failed to introduce exculpatory evidence. Shinn was disbarred and has since died.

Cummings, 66, remains imprisoned in San Quentin. L.A. County Superior Court Judge Hayden Zacky said Tuesday he had signed an order to compel Cummings to appear at Gay's retrial.

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Los Angeles Times

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Legal Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23CHCP00185

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano, a minor, Aryelle Savannah Serrano, a minor by and through Silvia Cano Mejia, their mother.
11130 Bartee Avenue
Mission Hills, CA 91345
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Xavier Emmanuel Serrano, a minor, Aryelle Savannah Serrano, a minor by and through Silvia Cano Mejia, their mother. filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano, Aryelle Savannah Serrano
Proposed Name
Xavier Agustin Mejia, Aryelle Savannah Mejia

Legal Notices

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: July 5 2023
TIME: 8:30am
DEPT: F51
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: 05/03/2023
David W. Slayton
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 05/24/23, 05/31/23, 06/07/23, 06/14/23

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23TRCP00228

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Nataliya V Qutner (Natalya Moshlyak Kutner)
1600 Esplanade Unit D, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Nataliya V Qutner (Natalya Moshlyak Kutner) filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Nataliya V Qutner
Proposed Name
Veranika Natalia Qutner
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: July, 14, 2023
TIME: 8:30 am
DEPT: M
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 825 Maple Ave, Torrance, CA 90503 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: June, 02, 2023
July, 14, 2023
Order to Show Cause for a Change of Name
Published in the Los Angeles Times 06/07/23, 06/14/23, 06/21/23, 06/28/23

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22STCV14698

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Therodore C. Llewellyn, an individual and DOES 1 TO 20, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Chantelle Eastman, an individual

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Los Angeles Superior Court Central District
111 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Saul Reise, SBN 48528, Law Offices of Saul Reise, PC
11835 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 41 5E
Los Angeles, CA 90064
(310) 450-2888

Date: (Fecha) 05/03/2022

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
H. Flores-Hernandez Deputy (Adjunto)

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*: 22CHLC01441

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: *(AVISO AL DEMANDADO)*:
CHAD G MOKLER

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: *(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)*:
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site *(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)*, the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE**: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.*
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puedo encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y hienen sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
9425 Penfield Avenue
Chatworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
CLAUDIA GAVRILESCU, ESQ. (CA BAR NO.: 333030)
REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 566531)

DATE *(Fecha)*: 01/18/2022
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
Clerk *(Secretario)*, by L. Lacanlale, Deputy *(Adjunto)*
(SEAL)
6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28/23

CNS-3708410#
Published in the Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso): 23TRCV00394

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
BEVERLY D. MORABLE, also known as DOROTHY BEVERLY MORABLE, an individual, and DOES 1 THROUGH 25, inclusive.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, and THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por esqrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al contrademandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o oniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Inglewood Courthouse
One Regent Street
Inglewood, CA 90301

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Caroline K. Castillo, Deputy County Counsel (SBN 236987); Office of County Counsel, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

Date: 02/10/2023

David W. Slayton Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court (Secretario)
P. Perez Deputy (Adjunto)

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JUMBLE®
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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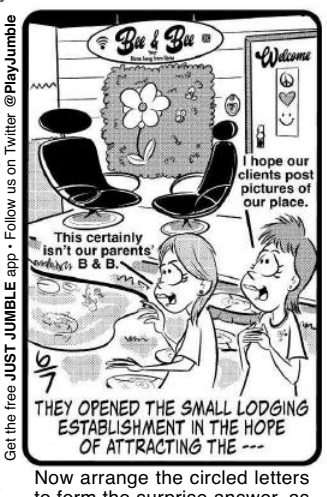
Bea & Bee
Welcome
I hope our clients post pictures of our place.
This certainly isn't our parents' B & B.
THEY OPENED THE SMALL LODGING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Print your answer here: " ____ " ____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNFIT RODEO FOUGHT THROAT
Answer: When the Carney brothers discussed franchising Pizza Hut, it was — FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Los Angeles Times
The state of what's next.

LGBTQ+ topics in schools spark heated protests

[**Glendale,** from B1]
But most of those who did speak were in favor of LGBTQ+ acceptance, with many thanking the board for being inclusive.

The parent of a queer middle school student in the district said her child had faced discrimination growing up.

The woman said she was grateful for the commitment by the GUSD board in protecting LGBTQ+ acceptance.

"I've never spoken before," she said, "but as an actual parent, I felt that I had to be here because a lot of the opposing people don't believe that I exist."

But a few speakers expressed anger at the board for its policies.

"I'm here on the side of parents who want to keep the focus in schools on academics rather than on sexual orientation," said Belissa Cohen, who identified herself as an LGB activist.

Meanwhile, the furor outside the meeting could be heard even as speakers took their turns addressing the board.

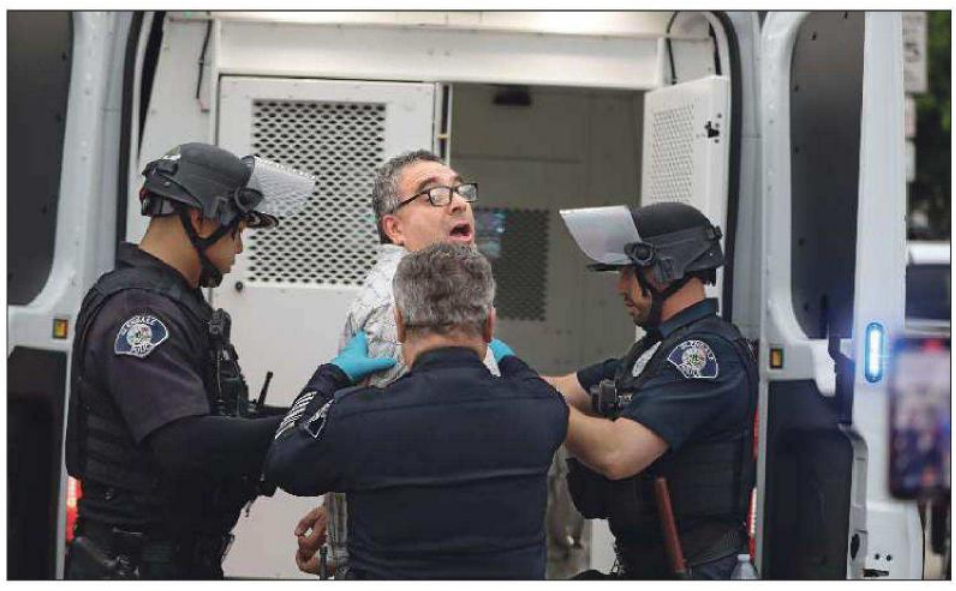
Police eventually installed a yellow wire barrier near the building's entrance.

City and school officials had expected things to become heated. The meeting was held amid a simmering climate on LGBTQ+ rights that boiled over last week when protesters violently clashed at a North Hollywood elementary school over a Pride-themed assembly.

Glendale police said most of Tuesday's protest was peaceful, but "a small group of individuals engaged in behavior deemed unsafe." Three people were arrested on charges including obstructing officers and unlawful use of pepper spray. Following the arrests, police said "additional attempts to deescalate the crowd failed." An unlawful assembly was declared, and at around 6 p.m. police ordered the crowd to disperse as additional officers were called in.

The scene outside the district offices remained tense well after the meeting adjourned, with demonstrators from both sides lingering on the sidewalks.

One man was detained by police, but it was unclear why. Videos on social media showed the man lying between two police motorcycles before he was grabbed by officers.



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

A PROTESTER is arrested Tuesday at a Glendale Unified School District meeting where parents and activists clashed over teaching sexual identity in class.

Board meetings have been attended by protesters for the last several weeks, with anti-LGBTQ+ activists criticizing district staffers' handling of LGBTQ+ material and policies.

"This is about, specifically, gender ideology being put upon and thrust upon children at Glendale Unified," Jordan Henry, who is running for Glendale City Council, told The Times on Tuesday prior to the meeting.

GUSD Parents Voices, a conservative group, called for parents to attend Tuesday's meeting, posting: "Join the fight against indoctrination in our schools."

LGBTQ+ advocacy organization glendaleOUT also urged supporters to attend Tuesday's meeting.

"Tuesday, June 6 is an action of love and gratitude to our GUSD educators and administrators for all the work they've done this year on behalf of our entire Glendale community," glendaleOUT said on Facebook.

"We really just want to keep the peace and keep it simple and keep the queer community safe and let them know that they're loved," said Grey James, a member of glendaleOUT.

Glendale police said previous clashes between groups of protesters had included shouting but no physical confrontations.

On Friday, a fight broke out outside Saticoy Elementary, where more than 100 parents rallied against a Pride Day assembly. Last month a Pride flag belonging to a transgender teacher at the school was burned.

On Monday, the Glendale school released a statement and FAQ in response to criticisms raised by the anti-LGBTQ+ activists.

"Recently, intentional and harmful disinformation has been circulating about what is being taught in our district and the ways we serve our students," the Glendale Unified School District said in a statement. "This includes disinformation about LGBTQIA+ curriculum, sex education, and supporting transgender and gender nonconforming youth."

County passes LGBTQ+ motions

[**LGBTQ+,** from B1]
der-nonconforming, intersex, and nonbinary appointees. The commission will be composed exclusively of people who identify as LGBTQ+, according to the motion.

"Having an entity made up of individuals who know and have experienced the unique struggles that are common to the LGBTQ+ community is vital," the motion says. "This commission will allow the county to see this community through its own lens and understand the many overlapping challenges they often experience."

The county already has commissions that deal with LGBTQ+ issues. The Commission on Human Relations, for example, develops programs to address homophobia, among other initiatives. Its most recent report on hate crimes found that there were 41 anti-transgender crimes in 2021 — the vast majority of them violent. The majority of hate crimes toward gay men were also violent.

> 'Let's stand firm and make sure that we don't ... allow for hateful policies to be expanded.'
>
> — HILDA SOLIS, L.A. County supervisor

County supervisors also noted Tuesday the number of bills introduced across the nation criminalizing doctors and families seeking gender-affirming healthcare.

Supervisors said they want to bolster these services through a motion strengthening coordination between county departments that play a role in providing gender-affirming healthcare.

Horvath said the services would include providing puberty blockers for transgender youth and HIV prevention drugs.

"We must rededicate ourselves as an entire county and know this is a responsibility we all have," she said. "This is not a responsibility that is placed on the shoulders of the LGBTQ+ community to fight by themselves."

Newsom, state officials warn about book bans

[**Book,** from B1]
ment in approving the social studies textbook, and two members — including Komrosky — said they opposed the book because of the section on Milk.

"My question is, why even mention a pedophile?" Komrosky asked during a hearing on the subject.

Members of the audience stammered in response and some shook their heads in video from the board meeting.

Board member Allison Barclay said, "He's not a pedophile."

"I beg to differ," Komrosky said. "What does that got to do with our curriculum and schools? Why?"

Milk's work focused on protecting classes of people from discrimination, including the LGBTQ+ community, Barclay said.

Komrosky asked, "So, you think pedophilia is protected?"

"Excuse me, absolutely not," Barclay said. "I am not talking about pedophilia."

Komrosky, who is a tenured college professor at Mt. San Antonio College, did not respond to requests for comment.

In a Twitter post Saturday, Newsom fired back at Komrosky.

"An offensive statement from an ignorant person," the governor wrote. "This isn't Texas or Florida. In the Golden State, our kids have the freedom to learn. Congrats Mr. Komrosky you have our attention. Stay tuned."

The governor's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment about how the state would respond, but last week, Newsom's office, along with Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta, and California Supt. of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond called on school officials across the state to be careful around the topic of book bans.

"In the first half of this school year alone, 1,477 books were banned nationally, with teachers and librarians threatened with prison time for shelving the wrong book," the officials wrote in their letter.

"As state leaders elected to represent the values of all Californians, we offer our response in one shared voice: Access to books — including books that reflect the diverse experiences and perspectives of Californians, and especially, those that may challenge us to grapple with uncomfortable truths — is a profound freedom we all must protect and cultivate," the joint letter said.

The letter did not directly address the vote in Temecula, but warned that if school administrators in California remove or ban instructional materials from classrooms or libraries, the state may request information about the removal for analysis.

Before the Temecula school board rejected the social studies textbook, roughly 1,300 students were involved in a pilot program, using the curriculum material, and 45 parents responded to a survey asking for feedback about the curriculum, according to district staff.

Also, 47 teachers agreed that the district should adopt the textbooks California Studies Weekly for kindergarten students and TCI Social Studies Alive for first- through fifth-grade students.

The board shot down the adoption in a 3-2 vote. Board members Jennifer Wiersma, Danny Gonzalez and Komrosky voted against the curriculum, while board members Steven Schwartz and Barclay voted in favor.

Without the approval of the new curriculum, the district will be short of the books needed for students, which could run afoul of a California law that requires enough instructional materials, such as textbooks, be provided for every student.

Edgar Diaz, president of Temecula Valley Educators Assn., said having no materials means that teachers would need to find their own.

"There's a tremendous amount of work to go out and do," Diaz said.

The board did not offer any alternatives aside from rejecting the new textbooks, Diaz said, leaving the district stuck until a new decision is made.

"If they don't, we're going to have 11,300 students without textbooks next year,"

The educators organization, an advocacy group, plans to rally outside the next board meeting on June 16.

Wiersma, Gonzalez and Komrosky were voted into office last year with the endorsement of the Inland Empire Family PAC, which aims to support candidates who oppose "critical race theory," LGBTQ+ acceptance and the promotion of transgenderism, according to the political group's website.

Lawmakers in Sacramento are now considering a bill by State Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Perris) that would require a supermajority vote from a school district's governing body to remove a book from a school's curriculum. Assembly Bill 1078 also would create an appeal process for parents to challenge a book ban.

"As a Christian myself, I am deeply appalled that these individuals are perverting our faith to sow division and suppress the histories of others," Jackson said in a statement.

"This will not happen on my watch."

Times staff writer Saumya Gupta contributed to this report.

JEANETTE ROWE

Pioneer in homeless services in L.A.

BY GALE HOLLAND

Jeanette Rowe, a pioneer in bringing homeless services into the streets instead of dumping people on Skid Row, or expecting them to scale bureaucratic mountains, has died at 72.

Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe encampment clearances and other modern homeless programs were "built on the shoulders" of Rowe, the agency's current director said. Rowe took the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's emergency response team from two to 85 staff members.

"Not everyone would feel comfortable seeking help because of levels of depression, hopelessness and other challenges," said LAHSA Executive Director Va Lecia Adams Kellum. "The notion someone goes to the encampment gives inspiration to them."

Within a year of her 2016 retirement from LAHSA, Rowe took a position as head of programs at the Midnight Mission on Skid Row, where she overcame institutional resistance to build the 110-year-old shelter's first women's program.

Rowe called herself "an old hippie," but few hippies ever worked her punishing six-day weeks, helping people at encampments from the San Gabriel riverbed to Union Station, where she spent a two-day Christmas holiday helping relocate hundreds of people swept out of the landmark's ornate lobby.

Homeless people were not "service resistant," she believed — if only someone would listen to what they needed. Besides, she said, "I dig that these people have a choice."

Rowe died May 26 at a hospital after a short illness. She is survived by her wife, Karen Jenkins-Galloway; brother Eddie Rowe and sister Marilyn Silver.

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

TIRELESS ADVOCATE In 2016, Rowe meets Beverly Walker, 76, who was found living underneath an L.A. freeway.

Rowe grew up in Newark, N.J., in a poor household that never felt that way. "My mother always said you only need one pair of shoes," she said.

Her mother kept the back door, and her dinner table, open to people facing hard times.

"I never slept by myself until I left home for college" at Cal State Los Angeles and Dominguez Hills, where she studied music, Rowe said.

She was working as an accountant when the plight of young homeless people in Hollywood drew her into homeless services. At first she worked with homeless families and children, who she found thrived if their bonds to church, school and community were preserved while they got back on their feet.

Midnight Mission President G. Michael Arnold said what passed for outreach back then was rounding up homeless people to drop off at Skid Row shelters, or handing out appointment slips.

"Jeanette realized what she learned applies to everyone being traumatized on the street," said Arnold, who also headed LAHSA during Rowe's tenure there.

The homeless service system had floundered for years in fits and starts, Rowe said. Sobering centers, serviced by Skid Row's "boozer cruise," and short-term rent vouchers were cut off for lack of funding. Until 2005, officials had no reliable homeless count, which she likened to trying to cook without knowing who's coming to dinner.

After the 2016 passage of the city's $1.2-billion homeless housing bond, she felt Los Angeles was "heading in the right direction" and retired from LAHSA. "Housing is key," she said.

Her plan was to rescue animals and organize concerts for homeless people with a musician friend from New York. She did rescue street animals, particularly in her longtime neighborhood of Leimert Park, and organize Skid Row concerts — but her retirement was barely a year old when Arnold hired her at the Midnight Mission, where she worked until her death.

"Her heart just wouldn't keep her out of the streets," Arnold said.

Doris Starling, the Midnight Mission's director of street services access center, called Rowe her friend and mentor.

"She taught me how to motivate people," said Starling, adding that they often attended women's basketball games together.

Rowe was a gifted writer, and her program proposals generally won the day — even when they arrived by email at 3 in the morning, Starling said.

"We'd say, 'Jeanette. Go to bed. Please go to bed,' " Starling said.

Obituaries

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Sandy Appel

December 28, 1934 - May 22, 2023

Sandy Appel died in Coconut Grove, FL, on May 22, 2023, at the age of 88. She is survived by her husband, Mel, her two children, Corey and Peter, and her five grandchildren, Juliet, Mark, Austin, Tyler and Jarret.

Sandy was born on December 28, 1934, in Newark, NJ, the daughter of Louis and Gladys Millman. She had one younger sister, Judith Baraff, who predeceased her. Sandy graduated from Union High School in New Jersey and attended the University of Miami before embarking on a career as a fashion model. She married her husband, Mel, in 1956, and they shared nearly 67 years together as husband and wife. They raised their two children in Livingston, NJ, eventually settling in Marina del Rey, CA, before recently moving to Coconut Grove, FL, to spend their remaining years.

Sandy was a woman of outward beauty and inner strength. Always kind to others, she loved to travel and read, enjoyed being with her friends and worked out well into her 80s. However, her family was what mattered most to her, and she spent her last few decades relishing the time she shared with her grandchildren, who adored her. Sandy's life was full, and she lived it on her terms. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

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Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Low clouds, slightly warmer: The upper-level low that has been affecting the weather across the area will begin to move away. As this low moves through, it may disrupt the marine layer to allow low clouds to clear more quickly than on previous days. Afternoon temperatures are expected to be several degrees higher. Another upper-level low will approach Friday with an increase in low clouds.

5-day forecasts

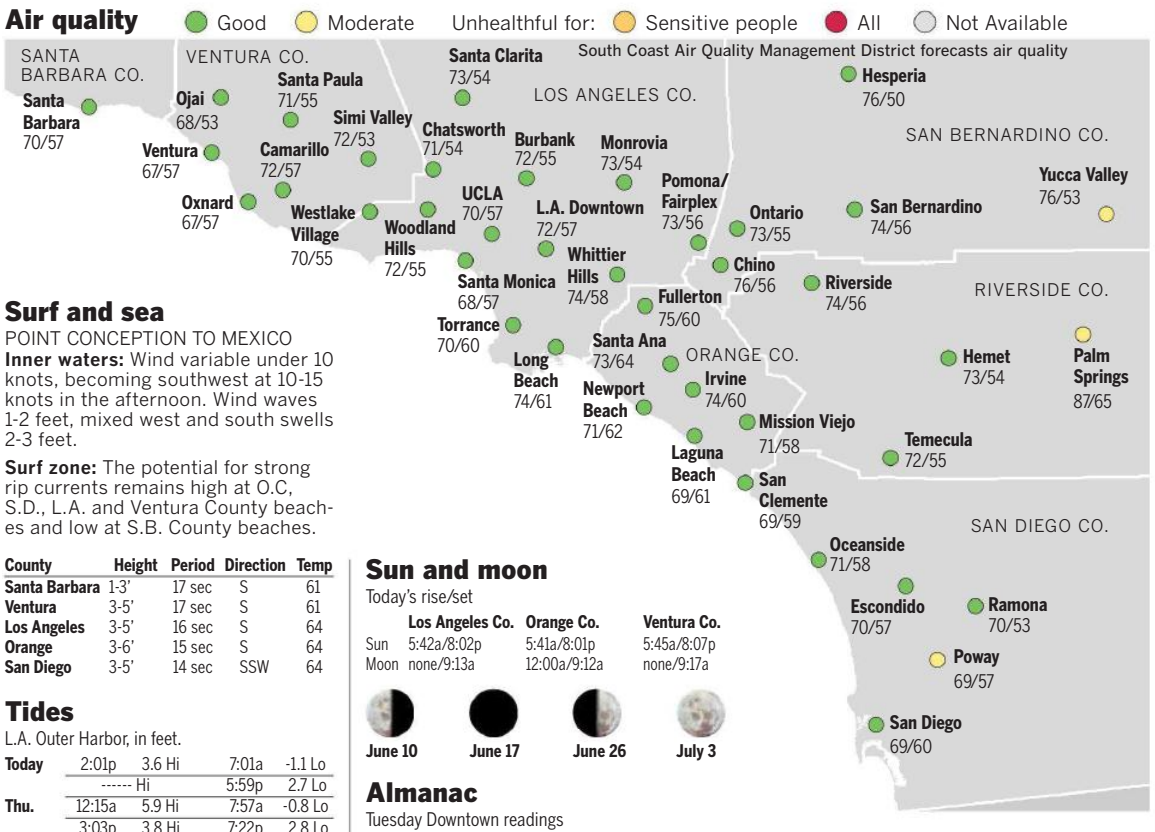
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	72|57		72|54		68|57		58|35		87|65	
	Low clouds clearing		Low clouds clearing		Low clouds clearing		A t-storm		Breezy	
Thursday	Mostly cloudy	73/59	Mostly cloudy	75/55	Mostly cloudy	70/58	A shower	64/37	Mostly sunny	92/66
Friday	Mostly cloudy	71/59	Mostly cloudy	76/57	Mostly cloudy	68/59	Partly sunny	67/41	Partly sunny	95/67
Saturday	Mostly cloudy	73/61	Mostly cloudy	74/58	Mostly cloudy	67/59	A shower	63/38	Breezy	93/64
Sunday	Mostly cloudy	70/59	Mostly cloudy	69/59	Mostly cloudy	67/58	Mostly sunny	57/36	Breezy	87/62

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind variable under 10 knots, becoming southwest at 10-15 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves 1-2 feet, mixed west and south swells 2-3 feet.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents remains high at O.C, S.D., L.A. and Ventura County beaches and low at S.B. County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	17 sec	S	61
Ventura	3-5'	17 sec	S	61
Los Angeles	3-5'	16 sec	S	64
Orange	3-6'	15 sec	S	64
San Diego	3-5'	14 sec	SSW	64

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	2:01p	3.6 Hi	7:01a	-1.1 Lo
	------ Hi		5:59p	2.7 Lo
Thu.	12:15a	5.9 Hi	7:57a	-0.8 Lo
	3:03p	3.8 Hi	7:22p	2.8 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 10 · Phoenix, 10
Los Angeles, 30 · San Francisco, 30

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	5:42a/8:02p	5:41a/8:01p	5:45a/8:07p
Moon	none/9:13a	12:00a/9:12a	none/9:17a

June 10 · June 17 · June 26 · July 3

Almanac

Tuesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	68/61	70/60	66/56
Normal high/low	75/60	77/61	70/54
High/low a year ago	77/63	80/63	70/62
Record high/date	102/1890	83/2012	81/1972
Record low/date	47/1887	54/1999	47/1950

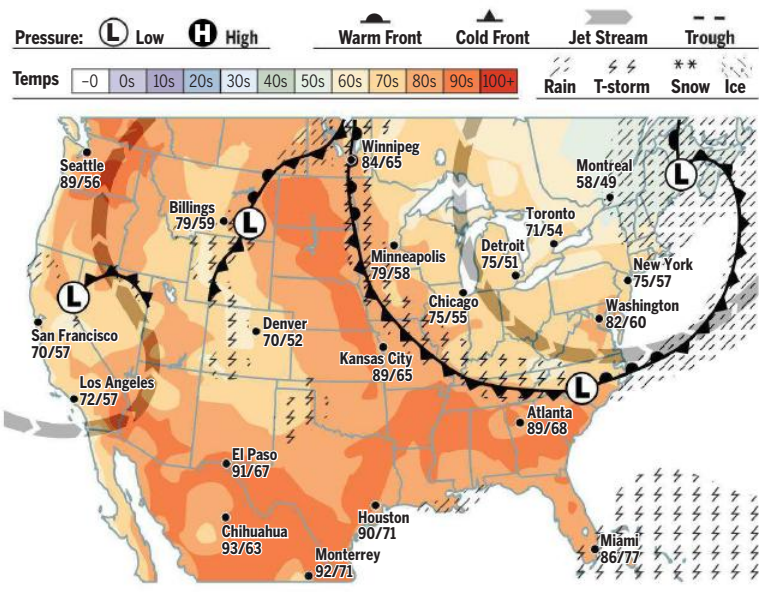
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.01
Season total (since Oct. 1)	28.03	21.35	26.54
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.34
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.06	11.65	15.88
Humidity (high/low)	67/49	69/50	83/55

California cities

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Thursday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	70	60	--	74	59	75	60
Avalon/Catalina	59	53	--	62	53	61	54
Bakersfield	79	59	--	80	64	86	64
Barstow	85	54	--	82	62	88	66
Big Bear Lake	64	34	--	58	35	64	37
Bishop	82	51	.07	76	49	77	50
Burbank	65	57	--	72	55	74	55
Camarillo	69	57	--	72	57	73	58
Chatsworth	67	56	--	71	54	76	55
Chino	73	57	--	76	56	79	57
Compton	66	59	--	73	59	72	59
Dana Point	66	57	--	69	59	69	59
Death Valley	100	78	.01	88	83	99	86
Del Mar	67	55	--	63	59	66	59
Escondido	71	58	--	70	57	72	58
Eureka	58	50	Tr	61	53	61	49
Fallbrook	69	57	--	71	56	75	57
Fresno	80	62	--	81	62	88	60
Fullerton	70	60	--	75	60	74	60
Hemet	68	53	--	73	54	78	52
Hesperia	75	48	--	76	50	81	54
Huntington Beach	69	59	--	71	61	70	61
Idyllwild	66	35	--	63	49	70	52
Irvine	68	58	--	74	60	74	60
L.A. D'ntown/USC	68	61	--	72	57	73	59
L.A. Int'l. Airport	65	57	--	69	60	70	60
Laguna Beach	72	56	--	69	61	68	62
Lancaster	73	52	--	74	57	81	65
Long Beach	68	59	--	74	61	72	61
Mammoth Lakes	67	41	.02	63	39	62	39
Mission Viejo	66	51	--	71	58	72	57
Monrovia	68	55	--	73	54	77	57
Monterey	61	55	.15	69	57	67	59
Mt. Wilson	55	36	--	52	44	55	49
Needles	95	73	--	92	70	96	72
Newport Beach	64	58	--	71	62	69	62
Northridge	70	56	--	73	55	76	55
Oakland	68	57	Tr	70	57	69	58
Oceanside	71	56	--	71	58	73	60
Ojai	64	54	.22	68	53	71	56
Ontario	70	56	--	73	55	76	55
Palm Springs	88	63	--	87	65	92	66
Pasadena	71	58	--	71	55	74	55
Paso Robles	60	54	.01	73	50	78	51
Redding	81	66	Tr	86	65	86	63
Riverside	62	54	--	74	56	77	55
Sacramento	73	58	Tr	77	56	80	55
San Bernardino	73	56	--	74	56	80	56
San Diego	69	61	--	69	60	71	62
San Francisco	69	60	.01	70	57	71	57
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	73	57	74	57
San Jose	71	59	.09	76	56	77	58
San Luis Obispo	61	56	.08	68	54	73	54
Santa Ana	69	60	--	73	64	73	62
Santa Barbara	68	59	.03	70	57	71	56
Santa Clarita	65	54	--	73	54	78	53
Santa Monica Pier	66	57	--	68	57	70	58
Santa Paula	69	55	--	71	55	73	58
Santa Rosa	65	54	.02	71	54	72	52
Simi Valley	67	55	--	72	53	74	53
Tahoe Valley	68	47	.05	64	42	63	40
Temecula	69	55	--	72	55	76	54
Thousand Oaks	65	54	.01	70	55	73	54
Torrance	70	57	--	70	60	70	62
UCLA	66	58	--	70	57	71	56
Van Nuys	70	59	--	75	55	75	56
Ventura	66	56	.01	67	57	67	58
Whittier Hills	72	58	--	74	58	74	58
Woodland Hills	68	55	--	72	55	74	54
Wrightwood	61	41	--	60	45	63	47
Yorba Linda	70	57	--	73	57	74	58
Yosemite Valley	64	51	.01	65	45	67	44

Today in North America

Northeast smoke: Smoke from wildfires will continue to dim and block the sun in the Northeast and create poor air quality and hazy skies. As cool air holds in the Northeast, warmth will fuel thunderstorms in parts of the Southern states, Plains and Rockies.



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 105 in Eloy, Ariz. **Low** 30 in Dillon, Colo.

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	71	50	.11	71	51	Hz
Albuquerque	83	59	.05	82	57	Ts
Anchorage	57	51	.02	57	49	Sh
Aspen	72	39	--	64	42	Ts
Atlanta	90	68	Tr	89	68	Pc
Austin	88	64	--	90	66	Ts
Baltimore	83	56	--	82	60	Hz
Boise	92	60	.05	86	61	Ts
Boston	75	57	--	67	52	Sh
Buffalo	72	57	--	69	52	Hz
Burlington, Vt.	71	49	.17	57	50	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	88	63	1.37	89	65	Ts
Charlotte	85	66	--	84	56	Hz
Chicago	77	66	Tr	75	55	Hz
Cincinnati	86	54	--	77	54	Hz
Cleveland	77	53	--	71	51	Hz
Columbia, S.C.	89	65	--	91	63	Pc
Columbus	82	52	--	76	49	Hz
Dallas/Ft.Worth	90	69	Tr	90	69	Pc
Denver	77	51	.02	70	52	Ts
Detroit	78	61	--	75	51	Hz
El Paso	94	69	.03	91	67	Pc
Eugene	88	50	--	80	55	Pc
Fort Myers	89	72	1.08	87	75	Ts
Hartford	75	50	--	75	50	Hz
Honolulu	88	72	Tr	87	76	Pc
Houston	86	68	--	90	71	Ts
Indianapolis	86	56	--	79	55	Hz
Jacksonville, Fla.	91	62	.05	87	69	Pc
Kansas City	88	62	--	89	65	Pc
Knoxville	87	64	--	76	55	Ts
Las Vegas	91	73	--	83	67	Su
Louisville	87	62	--	76	58	Ts
Medford	94	59	.05	84	61	Ts
Memphis	90	67	Tr	94	70	Cy
Miami	85	71	.01	86	77	Ts
Milwaukee	68	61	.11	70	55	Hz
Minneapolis	86	69	--	79	58	Cy
Nashville	90	62	--	86	61	Pc
New Orleans	83	71	.06	87	73	Ts
New York	79	60	Tr	75	57	Hz
Norfolk	81	59	--	74	58	Hz
Oklahoma City	87	64	.04	86	65	Su
Omaha	92	62	--	90	63	Ts
Orlando	89	68	--	90	72	Ts
Philadelphia	82	56	.02	80	57	Hz
Phoenix	101	73	--	95	72	Su
Pittsburgh	78	52	--	71	47	Hz
Portland, Ore.	92	57	--	90	59	Pc
Providence	74	52	.01	71	49	Sh
Raleigh/Durham	84	62	--	77	54	Ts
Reno	81	57	.04	80	55	Ts
Richmond	82	56	--	80	55	Hz
St. Louis	90	59	--	80	62	Ts
Salt Lake City	91	63	.09	83	65	Pc
Seattle	81	55	--	89	56	Pc
Tampa	91	73	--	88	77	Pc
Tucson	105	69	--	93	63	Su
Tulsa	90	65	.05	90	70	Su
Washington, D.C.	83	61	--	82	60	Hz
Wichita	88	62	.16	86	65	Su

World

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	91	75	--	90	76	Ts
Amsterdam	68	52	--	69	52	Cy
Athens	88	70	--	84	66	Pc
Bangkok	95	84	.20	90	80	Ts
Barcelona	75	64	--	75	64	Pc
Berlin	75	57	--	82	60	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	91	66	--	83	66	Su
Cairo	90	70	--	96	78	Cy
Dubai	109	93	--	103	83	Su
Dublin	64	46	--	61	48	Su
Havana	88	69	.04	88	71	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	90	77	.08	87	78	Ts
Hong Kong	85	81	.88	88	81	Ts
Istanbul	75	63	--	75	64	Su
Jerusalem	76	59	--	83	64	Su
Johannesburg	69	45	--	71	52	Su
Kuala Lumpur	92	76	.04	92	76	Sh
Lima	75	69	--	75	68	Su
London	63	53	--	74	49	Su
Madrid	82	57	--	67	60	Sh
Mecca	109	81	--	112	87	Su
Mexico City	81	57	.26	81	58	Sh
Montreal	68	57	.05	58	49	Sh
Moscow	68	50	--	73	49	Pc
Mumbai	93	86	--	94	84	Hz
New Delhi	100	75	--	102	80	Hz
Paris	81	54	--	83	59	Su
Prague	64	55	.57	70	55	Ts
Rome	75	59	--	78	62	Ts
Seoul	77	59	.02	79	63	Su
Singapore	86	78	.31	87	79	Ts
Taipei City	91	79	--	96	77	Ts
Tokyo	77	64	.44	82	68	Pc
Vancouver	72	55	--	76	56	Su
Vienna	73	59	.67	70	56	Ts

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Tuesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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Fruitful process eyed for rookies

[**Rookies,** from B10]

taking ground balls under the watchful eye of everyone from infield coach Dino Ebel to club special assistant Chris Woodward to MVP-winning teammate Mookie Betts.

Outman will do the same in the outfield, reading fly balls and working on his throws with outfield coach Clayton McCullough and veteran teammates like Jason Heyward.

It's a small window into what the Dodgers are hoping will be a fruitful process for their two former prospects, who have each flashed potential over the first couple of months but also endured inevitable growing pains.

Outman was the National League's rookie of the month in April. Vargas was one of the Dodgers' hottest hitters for much of May.

Yet they've each suffered extended slumps: Vargas early in the year while tinkering with his swing; Outman of late while adjusting to a steady diet of high fastballs.

They've both been culpable for defensive mistakes: Outman struggling to read some fly balls in center; Vargas occasionally getting crossed up fielding grounders to his left.

And they've both needed time to get settled into the majors, trying to learn from bumps in a road the team still believes will result in them being key contributors by the end of the season.

"I think they'll both get to the [level of] consistency that big league ballplayers get to, at some point," manager Dave Roberts said. "We need it some time this season. [We'll be] counting on them down the road. But they've got a great support group with their coaches and their teammates. To me, that's really encouraging."

Outman has encountered wilder swings over the season's first few months.

In March and April, he looked like a star in the making. Two hits on opening day. Seven home runs in his first 29 games. Reliable defense at all three outfield spots. And a few particularly memorable moments — most notably, a game-winning, ninth-inning grand slam at Wrigley Field.

"[That's when] I felt like I was a big leaguer," Outman said of that Chicago series.

Since then, opponents have started treating him like more of a legitimate big league threat too.

Teams have started attacking the 26-year-old with high heat, crowding him with up-and-in fastballs after he showed his ability to lay off low spin and wait for mistakes over the plate.

In the minors, Outman had success against elevated velocity. But against major league arms, the results haven't been the same.

Since the start of May, he is batting .161 with two home runs and strikeouts in almost 38% of his at-bats.

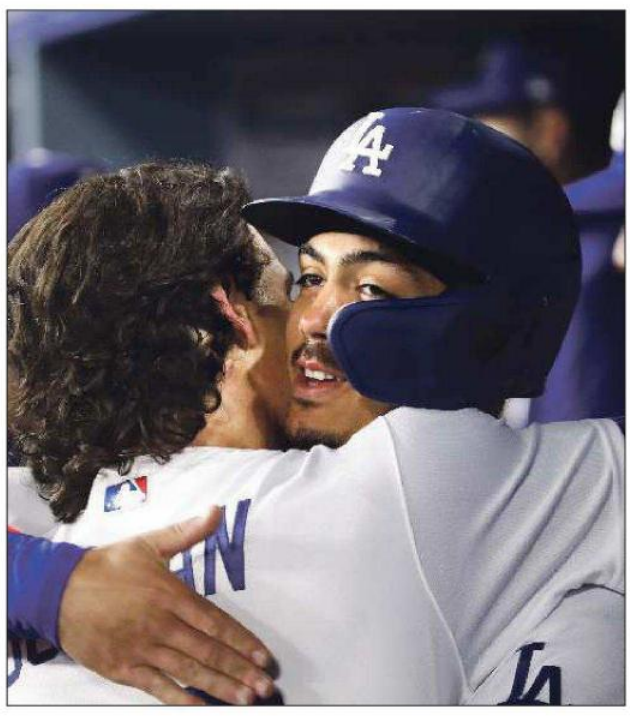
His defense has also slipped, with misreads in center becoming more common.

"Everything is magnified [in the majors]," said Outman, whose .773 on-base-plus-slugging percentage ranks slightly above league average. "But I just keep reminding myself, it's still the same game. Just got to try to keep a level head."

Roberts noted the rookie has looked a little too "in between" at the plate, unable to fight off fastballs at the top of the zone but also more liable to chase secondary stuff down below.

"The last few weeks, [that] has been more prominent than we've seen," Roberts said. "So I think the message, from the hitting coaches to James himself, is have a plan and have conviction. When you get caught in between, things are starting to speed up a little bit."

Yet, during a dugout interview this weekend, Outman's confidence hardly seemed shaken. He propped his feet up on a railing. He talked about what a "blast" it's been being part of a first-place team.



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

MIGUEL VARGAS, right, congratulates James Outman on a two-run home run early in the season.

He even chuckled about a recent autograph signing in Sherman Oaks — which, despite his current slump, was still attended by so many fans that he had time for only 30-second greetings with each.

"I felt bad for them, honestly, because they waited in line for so long," Outman said, reflecting on his latest reminder of how different major league stardom can be. "But I feel fortunate people are willing to do that."

Vargas' season has followed an opposite trajectory.

Early on, the 23-year-old infielder struggled with his swing, batting .202 (albeit with 21 walks) over his first 28 games.

Since then, the second baseman has tapped back into the confidence that originally lifted him to the major leagues — and was on full display in his debut last year, when he doubled and stole third in his first at-bat — with the help of some swing changes following an early-season finger injury.

Beginning with a four-hit, three-double outburst May 2 against Philadelphia, Vargas hit .247 in 27 games. Of his 24 hits in that span, 14 were for extra-bases.

"I feel pretty good," he said recently after delivering one of his 13 doubles this season in a game at Atlanta. "Trying to be more consistent at the plate."

While there was little doubt his swing would eventually come around — Vargas' .746 OPS has him back at league average — his strides on defense have been even more telling about his development in the majors.

Playing second base for the first time in his pro career, Vargas doesn't grade out as a great defender (among 45 qualified big league second baseman, he is 35th in outs above average). But he hasn't been as big of a liability as some feared either.

He has gotten more comfortable on routine grounders. He has displayed a big arm and cool knack for turning double plays. Most of all, he has applied the lessons Ebel and others have preached to him during his daily pregame drills.

"Hardest worker on the team," Ebel said. "He gets it. He's absorbing it ... and slowly, every day, we got to find a way to get better."

Lately, it has led to a ritual between Ebel and Vargas before the start of their work each day.

The coach will ask the rookie, "What's your goal?"

Without hesitation, Vargas will respond: "Be the best defender on the team — but don't tell anybody."

Dodgers bullpen loses it to Reds

Relievers give up five runs, including three in ninth, and L.A. drops third in a row.

CINCINNATI 9
DODGERS 8

BY JACK HARRIS

CINCINNATI — The Dodgers thought they were past this, that their once-struggling bullpen was finally a strength.

A glaring weakness at the beginning of the season, the team's relief corps had appeared to turn a corner in May.

Evan Phillips rediscovered his dominant form. But just as important, Caleb Ferguson, Brusdar Graterol and Yency Almonte emerged as reliable high-leverage relievers, giving the Dodgers a defined crop of late-inning options.

In recent weeks, however, performances have dipped. Inconsistency has returned.

And in a 9-8 loss to the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night — a defeat in which the Dodgers blew a five-run lead, punctuated by Ferguson's three-run blown save in the ninth — only one conclusion was clear: The Dodgers' bullpen is a problem again.

"This was a tough one," manager Dave Roberts said. "With this group of arms we have in the 'pen, it shouldn't happen."

The Dodgers initially appeared to be cruising toward a series-opening win, leading 8-3 at the end of the fourth inning after a home run from J.D. Martinez and grand slam from Freddie Freeman.

"Offensively, we scored enough runs to win a baseball game," Roberts said.

But on the mound, an uncharacteristically shaky Dodgers pitching staff — which ranks 22nd in ERA this season — stumbled once again.

Tony Gonsolin managed to complete only five innings. Gifted a three-run lead in the first, he immediately gave it up in the bottom half of the inning. And though he gave up only a single unearned run from there, his high pitch count forced an early exit.

"What that does is," Roberts bemoaned later, "is it exposes you in the bullpen."

Exposed, the Dodgers relievers were indeed.

Almonte gave up one run on three hits in the sixth, raising his season ERA to 6.84. Graterol surrendered another in the seventh.

Phillips was the lone bright spot, retiring the heart of the Reds' lineup in order in the eighth.

But with their best reliever burned — Phillips wasn't an option for a second inning because of his recent workload, Roberts said — the manager faced a ninth-inning decision while protecting an 8-6 lead.

Trust Ferguson, a left-hander, against a string of right-handed Reds batters? Or summon Shelby Miller to set up right-on-right matchups?

"We're counting on [Ferguson] to be a leverage guy regardless of handiness," Roberts said, having picked the former. "I felt that part of the order, he should be able to handle that."

Instead, Ferguson's command disappeared.

He walked the leadoff batter, then another with one out to load the bases.

After that, he forced home one run with yet another walk, before plunking Jake Fraley to tie the score at 8-8.

"I've just got to pitch better," said Ferguson, who has given up six runs in his last four outings. "I've been bad."

Miller finally entered from there to face Matt McLain. But with the bases still loaded, McLain lifted a fly ball to center for a walk-off single.

"This one stings," Roberts said. "We still should have won that game."

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Arizona	36	25	.590	–	7-3
DODGERS	35	26	.574	1	4-6
San Francisco	30	30	.500	5½	5-5
San Diego	28	33	.459	8	4-6
Colorado	26	36	.419	10½	4-6
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Milwaukee	33	28	.541	–	6-4
Pittsburgh	32	28	.533	½	6-4
Cincinnati	28	33	.459	5	6-4
Chicago	26	34	.433	6½	4-6
St. Louis	25	37	.403	8½	2-8
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	36	24	.600	–	5-5
Miami	34	28	.548	3	8-2
New York	30	31	.492	6½	4-6
Philadelphia	29	32	.475	7½	5-5
Washington	25	35	.417	11	4-6

Tuesday's results

at Cincinnati 9, DODGERS 8
at ANGELS 7, Chicago 4
at Philadelphia 1, Detroit 0
at Miami 6, Kansas City 1
Oakland 11, at Pittsburgh 2
at Atlanta 6, New York 4
Arizona 10, at Washington 5
at Texas 6, St. Louis 4
at Milwaukee 4, Baltimore 3, 10 innings
San Francisco 10, at Colorado 4
Seattle 4, at San Diego 1

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	40	20	.667	–	8-2
Houston	36	25	.590	4½	6-4
ANGELS	32	30	.516	9	4-6
Seattle	30	30	.500	10	4-6
Oakland	13	50	.206	28½	3-7
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	31	30	.508	–	5-5
Cleveland	27	33	.450	3½	5-5
Detroit	26	33	.441	4	3-7
Chicago	27	35	.435	4½	6-4
Kansas City	18	43	.295	13	3-7
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	44	19	.698	–	6-4
Baltimore	37	23	.617	5½	4-6
New York	36	26	.581	7½	6-4
Toronto	34	28	.548	9½	7-3
Boston	31	30	.508	12	4-6

Tuesday's results

at ANGELS 7, Chicago Cubs 4
at Philadelphia 1, Detroit 0
at Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 0
at Miami 6, Kansas City 1
at Toronto 5, Houston 1
Chicago 3, at New York 2
Oakland 11, at Pittsburgh 2
Boston 5, at Cleveland 4
at Texas 6, St. Louis 4
at Milwaukee 4, Baltimore 3, 10 innings
Seattle 4, at San Diego 1

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
LAD/Syndergaard (R)	1-4	6.54	4 p.m.
CIN/Williamson (L)	0-0	4.29	SNLA
ARI/Davies (R)	0-1	5.40	4 p.m.
WAS/Corbin (L)	4-5	4.92	
NY/Scherzer (R)	5-2	3.21	4:15 p.m.
ATL/Morton (R)	5-6	3.62	
SF/Webb (R)	4-6	2.85	5:30 p.m.
COL/Seabold (R)	1-2	5.40	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
CHI/Taillon (R)	1-3	7.05	6:30 p.m.
Angels/Barría (R)	2-2	1.59	BSW
OAK/Harris (L)	0-0	6.97	9:30 a.m.
PIT/Contreras (R)	3-4	4.82	MLB
SEA/Kirby (R)	5-4	3.04	1 p.m.
SD/Wacha (R)	5-2	3.48	
DET/Olson (R)	0-1	3.60	3 p.m.
PHI/Wheeler (R)	4-4	4.32	
KC/Lyles (R)	0-9	6.88	3 p.m.
MIA/Cabrera (R)	4-4	4.50	
BAL/Kremer (R)	6-2	4.43	4:30 p.m.
MIL/Burnes (R)	4-4	3.75	
STL/Flaherty (R)	3-4	4.55	5 p.m.
TEX/Gray (R)	6-1	2.50	

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
MIN/López (R)	3-3	4.54	3:30 p.m.
TB/Armstrong (R)	0-0	0.00	
CHI/Lynn (R)	4-6	6.55	4 p.m.
NY/TBD	—	—	MLB
HOU/Blanco (R)	1-0	4.15	4 p.m.
TOR/Bassitt (R)	6-4	3.40	
BOS/Crawford (R)	1-2	3.48	4 p.m.
CLE/Bibee (R)	1-1	3.20	

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Arizona	-126	at Washington	+108
DODGERS	-166	at Cincinnati	+140
at Atlanta	-126	N.Y. Mets	+108
San Francisco	-200	at Colorado	+168

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at ANGELS	-136	Chicago Cubs	+116
at Pittsburgh	-190	Oakland	+160
Seattle	-116	at San Diego	-102
at Philadelphia	-255	Detroit	+210
at Miami	-158	Kansas City	+134
at Milwaukee	-146	Baltimore	+124
at Texas	-134	St. Louis	+114

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Tampa Bay	OFF	Minnesota	OFF
at N.Y. Yankees	OFF	Chicago White Sox	OFF
at Toronto	-156	Houston	+132
at Cleveland	OFF	Boston	OFF

LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	57	212	85	24	.401
Freeman, Dodgers	61	246	81	51	.329
Acuña, Atlanta	60	240	79	52	.329
Castellanos, Philadelphia	61	238	75	38	.315
Gurriel, Arizona	53	200	62	30	.310

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Bichette, Toronto	62	265	88	35	.332
Yoshida, Boston	53	207	66	34	.319
Y. Díaz, Tampa Bay	52	196	62	41	.316
Urshela, Angels	56	200	62	21	.310
Franco, Tampa Bay	58	230	71	38	.309

REDS 9, DODGERS 8

Streak	Lost 3	**This month**	1-3
Home	20-10	**Road**	15-16
Division	12-7	**Interleague**	4-5

Next: Today at Cincinnati, 4 p.m. PDT
TV/Radio: SportsNet LA/570, 1020

Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Betts rf	3	2	1	0	.258
Freeman 1b	4	2	1	4	.329
Smith c	4	0	0	0	.300
Muncy 3b	4	1	1	1	.204
Taylor 3b	1	0	0	0	.209
Martinez dh	3	1	1	2	.277
Peralta lf	4	0	1	1	.243
Heyward cf	4	1	1	0	.236
Vargas 2b	3	0	1	0	.228
Rojas ss	4	1	1	0	.220
Totals	**34**	**8**	**8**	**8**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Fraley rf	5	2	2	1	.262
McLain ss	6	1	3	1	.341
India 2b	5	1	2	1	.279
DLCruz 3b	3	1	1	0	.333
Steer lf	2	2	1	1	.290
Stphnsn dh	5	0	3	2	.246
1-Hpkins	0	1	0	0	.167
Nwmn 1b	5	0	0	0	.264
Frchild cf	3	1	1	1	.231
Maile c	3	0	0	0	.226
a-Benson	1	0	1	0	.174
Casali c	0	0	0	1	.172
Totals	**38**	**9**	**14**	**8**	

Dodgers	300	500	000	–8	8	2
Cincinnati	300	011	103	–9	14	0

One out when winning run scored. a-singled for Maile in the 7th. 1-ran for Stephenson in the 9th.

Walks–Dodgers 5: Betts 2, Freeman 1, Smith 1, Vargas 1. Cincinnati 7: De La Cruz 2, Steer 2, Fairchild 2, Casali 1. **Strikeouts**–Dodgers 10: Betts 1, Freeman 1, Smith 2, Muncy 2, Taylor 1, Peralta 1, Vargas 1, Rojas 1. Cincinnati 6: Fraley 1, McLain 1, De La Cruz 1, Stephenson 1, Fairchild 1, Maile 1. **2B**–Muncy (5), De La Cruz (1). **HR**–Martinez (15), off Weaver; Freeman (11), off Young. **RBIs**–Muncy (43), Martinez 2 (43), Peralta (20), Freeman 4 (39), Steer (31), Stephenson 2 (24), India (30), Fairchild (17), Casali (5), Fraley (38), McLain (10). **DP**–Dodgers 2 (Vargas, Freeman; Freeman, Rojas).

Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gonsolin	5	5	4	3	3	5	92	2.21
Almonte	1	3	1	1	1	0	20	6.84
Graterol, H, 7	1	4	1	1	0	0	18	2.10
Phillips, H, 6	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	1.90
Fegsn, L, 3-1, BS, 2-3	⅓	1	3	3	3	0	30	3.38
S.Miller	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2.77
Cincinnati	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Weaver	3⅔	6	7	7	2	4	86	6.27
Young	1⅓	1	1	1	3	0	31	2.96
Cruz	1⅔	0	0	0	0	2	15	6.41
Gibaut	1	1	0	0	0	2	14	3.49
Salazar, W, 1-0	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	7.36

T–3:06. **Tickets sold**–22,602 (43,891).

ANGELS 7, CUBS 4

Streak	Won 2	**This month**	2-3
Home	16-13	**Road**	16-17
Division	10-10	**Interleague**	7-6

Next: Tonight vs. Chicago Cubs, Angel Stadium, 6:30
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830, 1330

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	5	0	2	0	.288
Swanson ss	5	0	1	0	.270
Happ lf	3	0	1	0	.271
Suzuki rf	4	1	1	0	.266
Gomes c	4	1	1	0	.274
Amaya dh	2	0	0	0	.286
Tauchman cf	4	1	1	2	.293
Wisdom 3b	3	1	0	0	.200
Mervis 1b	4	0	1	2	.183
Totals	**34**	**4**	**8**	**4**	

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ward lf	4	1	1	1	.241
Ohtani dh	2	2	1	1	.276
Trout cf	2	1	1	2	.266
Rendon 3b	2	0	0	0	.295
Walsh 1b	0	0	0	0	.162
Thaiss c	4	0	1	2	.279
Drury 2b	4	1	1	0	.254
Urshla 1b	3	1	0	0	.305
Moniak rf	4	0	0	0	.302
Rengifo ss	3	1	0	0	.217
Neto ss	1	0	0	0	.237
Totals	**29**	**7**	**5**	**6**	

Chicago Cubs	040	000	000	–4	8	1
Angels	000	150	10x	–7	5	0

Walks–Chicago 5: Happ 2, Suzuki 1, Amaya 1, Wisdom 1. Angels 6: Ohtani 2, Trout 2, Rendon 1, Walsh 1. **Strikeouts**–Chicago 11: Swanson 2, Happ 1, Suzuki 2, Amaya 1, Tauchman 2, Wisdom 2, Mervis 1. Angels 10: Ward 2, Thaiss 2, Drury 2, Urshela 2, Moniak 1, Neto 1. **E**–Mervis (2). **LOB**–Chicago 9, Angels 5. **2B**–Gomes (2), Mervis (2), Drury (15). **HR**–Ohtani (16), off Wesneski; Ward (7), off Estrada. **RBIs**–Tauchman 2 (6), Mervis 2 (9), Ohtani (42), Trout 2 (34), Ward (23). **DP**–Chicago 1 (Swanson, Hoerner, Mervis); Angels 1 (Neto, Drury, Neto).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wesneski	4⅓	2	4	2	1	4	73	4.72
Hughes, L, 0-3	0	2	2	2	2	0	15	5.54
Merryweather	1⅓	0	0	0	0	3	15	3.91
Estrada	0	1	1	1	3	0	22	5.59
Fulmer	2	0	0	0	0	3	23	6.15
Angels	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Anderson, W, 3-1	5	5	4	4	3	5	94	5.62
Soriano, H, 1	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	0.00
Webb, H, 1	⅓	1	0	0	2	0	15	3.38
Devenski, H, 6	1⅓	0	0	0	0	3	19	2.25
Estévez, S, 15-15	1	2	0	0	0	2	15	1.37

Estrada pitched to 4 batters in the 7th

Inherited runners-scored–Hughes 2-2, Merryweather 2-0, Fulmer 3-0, Devenski 3-0. **HBP**–Wesneski (Urshela), Soriano (Amaya). **WP**–Wesneski.

U–Adam Hamari, Nick Mahrley, Vic Carapazza, Jerry Layne. **T**–2:45. **Tickets sold**–27,716 (45,517).

MARLINS 6, ROYALS 1

Luis Arraez had two hits to raise his average to .401 and help the Marlins win their fifth straight. Miami improves to 34-28 — the first time it's been six games over .500 since August 2016.

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Garcia 3b	4	0	0	0	.250
Witt Jr. ss	4	0	2	0	.237
Psqntino dh	4	0	0	0	.250
Perez c	3	0	0	0	.278
Melendez rf	3	0	1	0	.222
Olivares lf	3	0	0	0	.234
Pratto 1b	3	1	1	0	.298
Duffy 2b	3	0	0	0	.301
Waters cf	3	0	1	0	.241
Totals	**30**	**1**	**5**	**0**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Arraez 2b	4	2	2	1	.401
Soler dh	3	0	0	0	.242
De La Cruz lf	3	0	1	3	.300
Cooper 1b	4	0	0	0	.230
Sánchez rf	4	1	1	1	.287
Wendle ss	4	1	2	0	.250
Segura 3b	3	1	1	0	.193
Fortes c	4	1	0	0	.242
Davis cf	3	0	0	0	.275
Totals	**32**	**6**	**7**	**5**	

Kansas City	000	001	000	–1	5	3
Miami	000	050	10x	–6	7	0

Walks– Miami 3: Soler 1, De La Cruz 1, Segura 1.

Strikeouts–Kansas City 11: Garcia 1, Witt Jr. 1, Pasquantino 1, Perez 2, Melendez 1, Olivares 1, Pratto 2, Duffy 1, Waters 1. Miami 8: Cooper 2, Sánchez 1, Wendle 1, Fortes 1, Davis 3.

E–Pratto (2), Olivares (3), Duffy (5). **LOB**–Kansas City 2, Miami 5. **2B**–Pratto (9), De La Cruz (11). **HR**–Sánchez (5), off Greinke. **RBIs**–Sánchez (13), Arraez (30), De La Cruz 3 (31).

Runners left in scoring position–Kansas City 1 (Pasquantino); Miami 2 (Cooper 2). **RISP**–Kansas City 0 for 2; Miami 2 for 8.

Runners moved up–Duffy. **GIDP**–Pasquantino, Olivares, Fortes.

DP–Kansas City 1 (Garcia, Pratto); Miami 2 (Segura, Wendle, Cooper; Arraez, Wendle, Cooper).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greinke, L, 1-6	4⅓	4	5	5	0	3	77	4.59
Kowar	2⅓	2	1	1	2	3	44	1.35
Cuas	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	4	4.50
Wittgren	1	1	0	0	1	1	15	4.50
Miami	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Luzardo, W, 5-4	7	2	1	1	0	8	86	3.79
Scott	1	1	0	0	0	1	6	3.10
Hoeing	1	2	0	0	0	2	24	3.13

Inherited runners-scored–Kowar 3-3, Cuas 2-0. **WP**–Kowar(2), Luzardo.

U–Chad Whitson, Rob Drake, Bill Miller, Roberto Ortiz. **T**–2:14. **Tickets sold**–7,342 (37,446).

PHILLIES 1, TIGERS 0

Kyle Schwarber hit a leadoff homer to power the Phillies past the Tigers for their fourth consecutive win. Detroit has lost the first five on a six-game trip that ends Wednesday at Philadelphia.

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
McKinstry rf	4	0	0	0	.272
Báez ss	4	0	1	0	.219
Torkelson 1b	3	0	0	0	.227
Maton 3b	4	0	0	0	.162
Baddoo lf	4	0	0	0	.237
Short 2b-cf	4	0	1	0	.288
Cabrera dh	2	0	1	0	.202
Rogers c	2	0	0	0	.149
Marisnick cf	2	0	0	0	.188
a-Ibáñez 2b	1	0	0	0	.177
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Schwarber lf	3	1	1	1	.173
Castllans rf	3	0	0	0	.315
Harper dh	3	0	0	0	.295
Turner ss	3	0	0	0	.240
Realmuto c	3	0	0	0	.254
Stott 2b	3	0	1	0	.286
Marsh cf	3	0	0	0	.267
Ellis 3b	3	0	0	0	.235
Sosa 3b	0	0	0	0	.254
Clemens 1b	3	0	1	0	.256
Totals	**27**	**1**	**3**	**1**	

Detroit	000	000	000	–0	3	1
Philadelphia	100	000	00x	–1	3	0

a-struck out for Marisnick in the 8th.

Walks–Detroit 3: Torkelson 1, Cabrera 1, Rogers 1.

Strikeouts–Detroit 13: McKinstry 1, Báez 2, Torkelson 2, Maton 1, Baddoo 1, Short 2, Rogers 1, Marisnick 2, Ibáñez 1. Philadelphia 9: Schwarber 1, Castellanos 1, Harper 1, Turner 1, Realmuto 2, Marsh 2, Ellis 1.

E–Maton (4). **LOB**–Detroit 6, Philadelphia 2. **2B**–Cabrera (5). **HR**–Schwarber (16), off Alexander. **RBIs**–Schwarber (34).

Runners left in scoring position–Detroit 3 (McKinstry 3); Philadelphia 1 (Harper). **RISP**–Detroit 0 for 5; Philadelphia 0 for 2. LI

DP–Marsh.

DP–Detroit 1 (Short, Torkelson, Short).

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alexander, L, 1-1	3	1	1	1	0	3	45	6.00
Cisnero	1	0	0	0	0	1	19	2.86
Holton	2	2	0	0	0	2	33	2.32
Vest	2	0	0	0	0	3	27	2.74
Philadelphia	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Walker, W, 5-3	7	2	0	0	3	8	91	5.04
Domínguez, H, 8	1	1	0	0	0	2	19	3.38
Kimbrel, S, 9-9	1	0	0	0	0	3	12	5.09

WP–Holton, Walker.

U–Adrian Johnson, Manny Gonzalez, Quinn Wolcott, Junior Valentine. **T**–2:07. **Tickets sold**–36,664 (42,901).

ATHLETICS 11, PIRATES 2

Jace Peterson homered twice and finished five for five, raising his batting average from .194 to .218, with five RBIs to fuel the Athletics, who ended their 15-game road losing streak.

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ruiz cf	6	0	0	0	.260
Noda 1b	4	1	2	1	.248
Rker dh	5	1	1	2	.261
Brown rf	4	0	1	1	.171
Díaz ss	4	1	2	0	.193
Smith ss	1	0	0	0	.182
Bleday lf	3	2	1	0	.207
Langlrs c	4	2	1	1	.217
Ptrson 2b	5	3	5	5	.218
Bride 3b	4	1	2	1	.263
Totals	**40**	**11**	**15**	**11**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Marcano ss	5	1	1	0	.264
Reynolds lf	2	1	1	0	.279
a-Mathias	1	0	0	0	.267
McCthn dh	2	0	0	0	.268
Suwinski cf	4	0	0	0	.230
Joe 1b	3	0	1	0	.256
Palacios rf	4	0	1	1	.265
Hayes 3b	4	0	1	0	.242
Castro 2b	4	0	1	0	.262
Hedges c	4	0	0	0	.176
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**1**	

Oakland	011	003	042	–11	15	1
Pittsburgh	100	010	000	–2	6	1

a-pinch hit for Reynolds in the 9th.

Walks–Oakland 5: Noda 1, Brown 1, Bleday 2, Langeliers 1. Pittsburgh 5: Reynolds 2, McCutchen 2, Joe 1. **Strikeouts**–Oakland 4: Ruiz 1, Noda 1, Brown 2. Pittsburgh 4: Marcano 1, Reynolds 1, Mathias 1, Suwinski 1. **E**–Peterson (4), Joe (1). **LOB**–Oakland 8, Pittsburgh 9. **2B**–Noda (13), Brown (4), Bride (1), Bleday (6), Marcano (10). **HR**–Langeliers (8), off Keller; Peterson 2 (5), off De Jong; Rooker (12), off De Jong. **RBIs**–Langeliers (26), Brown (9), Peterson 5 (18), Bride (1), Noda (21), Rooker 2 (34), Palacios (5). **SB**–Palacios (1). **Runners left in scoring position**–Oakland 1 (Díaz); Pittsburgh 5 (Joe, Palacios, Hayes 2, Marcano). **RISP**–Oakland 7 for 16; Pittsburgh 0 for 13. **Runners moved up**–Langeliers, Noda. **GIDP**–Langeliers, Bride, Rooker, Castro. **DP**–Oakland 1 (Smith, Peterson, Noda); Pittsburgh 3 (Marcano, Castro, Joe; Hayes, Castro, Joe; Castro, Marcano, Joe).

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kaprielian, W, 1-6	6	4	2	1	5	1	104	7.21
Long, H, 1	2	2	0	0	0	2	26	3.13
May	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	6.23
Pittsburgh	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Keller, L, 7-2	5⅓	8	5	5	4	1	101	3.60
Ramirez	⅔	2	0	0	0	0	7	1.25
Hernandez	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.13
De Jong	2	5	6	6	1	2	53	13.50

Inherited runners-scored–Ramirez 2-2. **HBP**–De Jong (Bride).

U–Nate Tomlinson, Edwin Moscoso, David Rackley, Chris Guccione. **T**–2:46. **Tickets sold**–13,691 (38,753).

D'BACKS 10, NATIONALS 5

Pavin Smith homered and drove in three runs, and the Diamondbacks won for the seventh time in nine games. Arizona moved ahead of the Dodgers for first place in the NL West.

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
P.Smith rf	6	1	2	3	.212
Marte 2b	6	2	1	0	.271
Carroll lf	3	2	1	0	.287
Walker 1b	3	1	0	0	.250
Rivera dh	3	1	2	1	.348
Rojas 3b	4	1	2	3	.247
Moreno c	4	1	2	2	.288
McCrth cf	3	0	1	1	.191
Prdmo ss	3	1	1	0	.281
Totals	**35**	**10**	**12**	**10**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Thomas rf	4	2	2	1	.281
García 2b	4	0	2	0	.271
Meneses dh	3	1	0	0	.301
Cndlario 3b	2	1	0	0	.258
Garrett lf	2	1	1	4	.267
a-Dickrsn lf	2	0	0	0	.273
K.Ruiz c	4	0	1	0	.233
D.Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	.265
Call cf	4	0	1	0	.218
Abrams ss	3	0	0	0	.232
Totals	**32**	**5**	**7**	**5**	

Arizona	100	232	200	–10	12	0
Washington	400	010	000	–5	7	2

a-pinch hit for Garrett in the 5th.

Walks–Arizona 8: Carroll 1, Walker 1, Rivera 2, Moreno 1, McCarthy 1, Perdomo 2. Washington 3: Meneses 1, Candelario 1, D.Smith 1. **Strikeouts**–Arizona 4: Marte 1, Carroll 1, Rojas 1, Perdomo 1. Washington 5: Thomas 2, Candelario 1, Dickerson 1, Call 1.**E**–Irvin (3), Abrams (12). **LOB**–Arizona 10, Washington 4. **2B**–K.Ruiz (8). **HR**–P.Smith (6), off Kuhl; Garrett (2), off Henry; Thomas (9), off Henry. **RBIs**–Rivera (12), Moreno 2 (23), P.Smith 3 (25), Rojas 3 (26), McCarthy (6), Garrett 4 (14), Thomas (28). **SB**–Thomas (5), McCarthy 2 (12), Perdomo (6), Carroll (17). **CS**–McCarthy (3). **SF**–Rojas, McCarthy. RISP_Arizona 5 for 15; Washington 1 for 6. **Runners moved up**–P.Smith, Walker. **GIDP**–Moreno, McCarthy, Abrams, Meneses. **DP**–Arizona 2 (Perdomo, Marte, Walker; Marte, Perdomo, Walker); Washington 2 (Abrams, D.Smith; García, Abrams, D.Smith).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Henry	4⅓	5	5	5	3	2	81	4.37
J.Ruiz, W, 2-1	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	22	3.38
McGough	1	1	0	0	0	1	8	3.13
K.Nelson	1	0	0	0	0	1	15	2.74
Ginkel	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	2.96
Washington	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Irvin	4	5	4	4	3	1	83	6.10
Ramírez, L, 2-3	⅔	2	2	2	1	0	16	6.33
Kuhl	2⅓	4	4	3	3	0	54	7.67
Ward	2	1	0	0	1	3	29	4.76

Inherited runners-scored–J.Ruiz 2-0, Ramírez 1-1, Kuhl 2-0. HBP_Irvin (Carroll), Ramírez (Walker), Henry (Candelario).

U– Erich Bacchus, Emil Jimenez, Laz Diaz, Mike Estabrook. **T**–2:58. **Tickets sold**–24,743 (41,376).

BRAVES 6, METS 4

Orlando Arcia drove in the go-ahead run in a four-run sixth to help Atlanta hand the Mets their season-high fourth loss in a row. The start of the game was delayed 1 hour 40 minutes by rain.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nimmo cf	3	0	0	0	.288
Lindor ss	3	1	1	2	.214
McNeil lf	3	1	0	0	.278
Alonso 1b	4	1	1	2	.231
Vglbch dh	4	0	0	0	.209
Marte rf	4	0	0	0	.245
Baty 3b	3	0	1	0	.229
Escobar 2b	3	0	0	0	.227
Narváez c	2	1	1	0	.313
a-Pham	1	0	0	0	.232
Álvarez c	0	0	0	0	.237
Totals	**30**	**4**	**4**	**4**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	4	0	1	0	.329
Olson 1b	3	1	1	0	.233
Riley 3b	3	1	2	0	.267
Murphy c	4	1	1	2	.288
Rosario lf	4	1	1	0	.256
Albies 2b	3	1	1	1	.258
Ozuna dh	4	1	1	2	.228
Arcia ss	3	0	2	1	.311
Harris II cf	4	0	0	0	.163
Totals	**32**	**6**	**10**	**6**	

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THE DAY IN SPORTS

Kings trade Petersen in a three-team swap

WIRE REPORTS

Cal Petersen, once considered the Kings' goalie of the future, was traded Tuesday as part of a three-team deal with the Philadelphia Flyers and Columbus Blue Jackets.

The Kings traded Petersen, defensemen **Sean Walker** and minor leaguer **Helge Grans** to the Flyers for defenseman **Kevin Connauton** and forward **Hayden Hodgson**. The Flyers also received a Kings second-round pick in the 2024 NHL draft.

The Kings also got defenseman **Ivan Provorov** from the Flyers and then dealt him to the Blue Jackets while retaining 30% of his contract.

Petersen played 10 games for the Kings last season, compiling a 5-3-2 record with a 3.75 goals-against average and an .868 save percentage. He was sent down to the Ontario Reign in December and did not return to the NHL.

After the 2020-21 season, in which Petersen was 9-18-5 with a 2.89 goals-against average and .911 save percentage in 35 games, he signed a three-year, $15-million contract extension.

He opened the '21-22 season as the starter but was eventually replaced by **Jonathan Quick**. The Kings traded Quick to Columbus in March for goalie **Joonas Korpisalo** and defenseman **Vladislav Gavrikov**.

ETC.

Bills' Hamlin takes next step in return

With a helmet on, Buffalo Bills safety **Damar Hamlin** took part in team drills for the first time this spring and some six months since having a near-death experience during a game.

Hamlin appeared upbeat by happily waving to the cameras pointed at him during pre-practice stretching drills.

Soon after, he served as a punt protector in several special team periods.

Two Cleveland Browns defensive players were robbed at gun point by six masked men outside a downtown night club, according to police. A person familiar with the situation identified the players as cornerback **Greg Newsome II** and tackle **Perrion Winfrey**.

Two-time All-Pro safety **Kevin Byard** practiced but didn't talk to reporters on the opening day of the Tennessee Titans' mandatory minicamp after being asked to take a pay cut earlier this offseason. ... **Aaron Rodgers** participated in practice for the first time in front of reporters after a strained calf kept him out of the sessions the last two weeks.

Atlanta Dream guard **Aari McDonald** is expected to miss three to four weeks as she recovers from a torn labrum.

Marquette men's basketball coach **Shaka Smart** received a contract extension after leading the Golden Eagles to their first outright regular-season championship and tournament title in the Big East. Smart's contract now runs through the 2029-30 season. This is the first extension Smart has received since signing a six-year deal when he took over as Marquette's coach in 2021. ... **Ron Sanchez** resigned as coach of Charlotte.

Anthony Hudson agreed to a two-year deal to guide Al Markhiya in the Qatari soccer league a week after quitting as interim coach of the U.S. men's national team last week.

Karim Benzema officially bid farewell to Real Madrid, saying he wanted to end his career with the club but life gave him another opportunity. Saudi Arabia club Al-Ittihad later said it had signed the 35-year-old player until 2026.

PGA Tour veteran **Charley Hoffman** and amateur **Preston Summerhays** qualified for next week's U.S. Open in a three-players-for-two-berths playoff at Hillcrest Country Club.

Photographs by GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

SHOHEI OHTANI, Cubs catcher Yan Gomes and umpire Adam Hamari watch Ohtani's 16th homer, a fourth-inning laser off Cubs pitcher Hayden Wesneski that hit off the wall but was ruled a homer after a video review.

Rendon returns with blunt talk

[**Angels,** from B10]

the instances of starting pitchers faltering, the bullpen unraveling at the worst possible moments or defensive miscues or errors, some of which are attributed to Rendon (seven errors in 2023), the Angels are seventh in the American League.

Shohei Ohtani hit his 16th homer Tuesday, Mike Trout drove in two runs and Carlos Estevez got his 15th save.

The Angels are four games out of a wild-card spot, nine games behind the first-place Texas Rangers and third in the AL West.

"We gotta do the little things," Rendon said. "Little things add up to big things. I always tell these guys, 'Hey, we gotta get at least, at a minimum 15 wins a month,' You do the math. ... We're gonna have a good chance at the end of the season to be in the hunt, to be able to play in October.

"We haven't been playing the best, but we've hit the bare minimum. I need to push these guys a little bit more to at least get at least maybe 16 or 17 wins [a month], so just gotta keep grinding."

His assessment was blunt but not accusatory. Rendon is as driven as the rest of his team and wants to win and contribute however he can.

When the Angels were fitting together the pieces of their puzzle in the offseason, Rendon factored heavily into the team's plans, not just for what he does on the field, but also for what he offers off of it.

An All-Star and two-time Silver Slugger, not to mention one of the few players in the clubhouse who has won a World Series, Rendon is a respected leader because his advice and input come from experience.

It's why some of the youngest players call him a role model. Rookie catcher Logan O'Hoppe once said, "When Tony talks, I listen." And rookie shortstop Zach Neto considers Rendon like a big brother.

Rendon's mistakes on the field and slow offensive production were to be expected, considering he hasn't played close to a full season since 2019, his last season with the Washington Nationals.

The frustration was plain on his face as those struggles played out, but Rendon's season seemed like it was turning around, his bat heating up at the end of April.

His first 15 games, he was batting .235 with a .618 on-base-plus-slugging rate. It improved to .365 with a .946 OPS in his last 15 before hitting the IL.

"If I'm on that field, I put that jersey on, I expect to be perfect. That's me," Rendon said. "I want to be the best person out there."

BRANDON DRURY scores on a wild pitch by Wesneski to open the scoring in the Angels' five-run fifth inning, which erased an early four-run lead for the Cubs.

Djokovic's answer is pure perfection

He doesn't lose point in tiebreaker, wins at French Open. Up next is Alcaraz showdown.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Novak Djokovic, in his words, felt "quite sluggish, quite slow" for nearly two full sets against Karen Khachanov in the French Open quarterfinals Tuesday.

Afterward, Djokovic called it his worst stretch of the tournament, a fair assessment. He dropped the opening set, something he hadn't done at Roland Garros this year. As the second went to a tiebreaker in Court Philippe Chatrier, he knew it was vital to step up his game, bring forth his best.

It's one thing to seek perfection; it's another to deliver. As if merely wanting so made it so, Djokovic did what he has done before at crucial moments over the years en route to 22 Grand Slam tournament singles titles.

Managing to choose the right shot every time, managing to put each ball precisely where he intended, the third-seeded Djokovic threw a shutout of a tiebreaker to point himself toward what would become a 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4 victory over the 11th-seeded Khachanov.

Djokovic, who will meet No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in a much-anticipated semifinal Friday, found one word to describe that segment of the match: "Amazing."

Alcaraz beat Djokovic on clay at the Madrid Masters last year in their only previous encounter, and the 20-year-old from Spain got past No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (5) on Tuesday night.

"Since the draw came out, everyone was expecting that match — the semifinal against Novak. Myself as well. I really want to play that match," Alcaraz said. "Since last year, I really wanted to play again against Novak."

No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka and unseeded Karolina Muchova reached the women's semifinals by winning earlier in the day. Sabalenka, the reigning champion at the Australian Open, eliminated Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4. Muchova defeated 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2.

How does Djokovic approach a tiebreaker?

"It's kind of a mentality of: 'OK, I'm present, I'm focused only on the next point, and I have to really think clearly about what I want to do against ... a given opponent. It worked really well for me," said Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia who has spent more weeks ranked No. 1 than anyone in tennis history and is currently No. 3. "It worked really well for me."

Well, that's an understatement.

"Every point was perfectly scripted for me, so to say. Yeah, sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't," he said. "I was lucky that, throughout my career, I have a very good and positive score in the tiebreaks. My opponents know that, and I know that. So, I think, mentally that serves me well."

Indeed, he is 307-162, a winning percentage of .655, in those set deciders now played at 6-all at every major. In 2023, it's 14-4, including 5-0 in Paris. And get this: Those tiebreakers at the 2023 French Open have been composed of 47 total points — and he has made a grand total of zero unforced errors.

Alcaraz progressed to his second major semifinal — the other came when he won the 2022 U.S. Open — by outclassing two-time Grand Slam tournament runner-up Tsitsipas in every possible manner until stumbling slightly near the finish.

Today's matches

Quarterfinal matches at the French Open:

MEN

- No. 4 Casper Ruud vs. No. 6 Holger Rune
- No. 22 Alexander Zverev vs. Tomás Martín Etcheverry

WOMEN

- No. 1 Iga Swiatek vs. No. 6 Coco Gauff
- No. 7 Ons Jabeur vs. No. 14 Beatriz Haddad Maia

TENNIS RESULTS

$53.2-MILLION FRENCH OPEN
At Paris
Surface: Red clay

MEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Novak Djokovic (3), Serbia, d. Karen Khachanov (11), Russia, 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4; Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, d. Stefanos Tsitsipas (5), Greece, 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

WOMEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, d. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, 7-5, 6-2; Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, d. Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-4.

MEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Marcel Granollers, Spain-Horacio Zeballos (10), Argentina, d. Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands-Neal Skupski (1), Britain, 6-3, 7-6 (4); Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek (4), d. Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz (11), Germany, 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Nicole Melichar-Martinez, and Ellen Perez (6), Australia, d. Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain-Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-3; Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (2), d. Greet Minnen, Belgium-Anna Bondar, Hungary, 6-2, 7-6 (2).

MIXED DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands-Aldila Sutjiadi, Indonesia, d. Fabrice Martin, France-Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, 7-5, 6-2; Michael Venus, New Zealand-Bianca Andreescu, Canada, d. Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador-Marta Kostyuk (7), Ukraine, 7-5, 3-6, 10-6.

THIBAULT CAMUS Associated Press

NOVAK DJOKOVIC plays a shot during his 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4 quarterfinal win over Karen Khachanov.

Forte early Belmont favorite

Pletcher-trained horse, who missed Kentucky Derby, is 5-2 in morning-line odds.

BY JOHN CHERWA

If you go by the morning-line odds, the 155th running of the Belmont Stakes on Saturday should be very competitive.

The odds were revealed during the Tuesday post-position draw. It certainly showed that the post position in a field of nine going 1½ miles really doesn't mean a lot.

Forte, who scratched on race day for the Kentucky Derby, was made the 5-2 favorite breaking from the six. Tapit Trice was the second favorite at 3-1 odds and will go from the second post, while Angel of Empire was installed at 7-2 odds and will break from the eighth position. It couldn't be much closer.

"You have to expect [Forte] to be a fit horse," said trainer Todd Pletcher. "It's 10 weeks between races, but he had a great foundation leading into that and he hasn't missed much training."

Pletcher also has the second choice in Tapit Trice, who finished a disappointing seventh in the Kentucky Derby, his only loss of the year.

"If we can get him into a good position and into a good rhythm, I think he's going to like the mile and a half," Pletcher said.

"He's been training that way."

Trainer Brad Cox has three horses in the race, including Angel of Empire, who finished third in the Derby, 1½ lengths behind winner Mage.

"[Jockey] Flavien [Prat] came back after the Derby and immediately said to put blinkers on the horse," Cox said of the equipment that helps keep a horse from being distracted.

"I don't know that it would have made a big difference in winning the Derby, but I do know he trains well in them."

Cox also has Hit Show (post seven, 10-1) and Tapit Shoes (post one, 20-1) in the race.

The only Southern California horse in the Belmont is the Bob Baffert-trained National Treasure, who won the Preakness on May 20.

He drew post four and is listed at 5-1 on the morning line.

"We wanted an inside-type post, so post four should be perfect for him," assistant trainer Jimmy Barnes said. "At a mile and a half, it's not that big of a concern.

"Most of the Belmonts we've won, our horse has been up close, so I'd say that's where he'll probably be."

Baffert won't arrive until later in the week. He hasn't been at Belmont Park since 2018, when Justify completed the Triple Crown by winning the Belmont Stakes.

Belmont Stakes post positions

Post. Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Odds
1. Tapit Shoes	Brad Cox	Jose Ortiz	20-1
2. Tapit Trice	Todd Pletcher	Luis Saez	3-1
3. Arcangelo	Jena Antonucci	Javier Castellano	8-1
4. National Treasure	Bob Baffert	John Velazquez	5-1
5. Il Miracolo	Antonio Sano	Marcos Meneses	30-1
6. Forte	Todd Pletcher	Irad Ortiz Jr.	5-2
7. Hit Show	Brad Cox	Manny Franco	10-1
8. Angel of Empire	Brad Cox	Flavien Prat	7-2
9. Red Route One	Steve Asmussen	Joel Rosario	15-1

Triple Crown format obsolete?

[**Triple Crown,** from B10] be much tougher, heavily raced. Horses can't stand that grueling of a test [of three races in five weeks]. I'm in favor of moving them further down the calendar."

Tweedy does have one caveat.

"You would have to put a full stop at the end of all the previous records and start a new set of records," Tweedy said. "I don't like to mess with history, but you have to change with the times."

This year is the 50th anniversary of Secretariat winning the Triple Crown, all with record times that remain in place.

The race with the most to gain is the Preakness Stakes, which comes two weeks after the Kentucky Derby. Most horses, after a rough trip in the Derby, prefer to wait the five weeks and come back in the Belmont Stakes.

This year, the television contract is not exclusively held by NBC, with the Belmont moving to Fox. That lessens the power one network has over the scheduling. Could the Preakness unilaterally move the race back one more week?

"I guess we could," said Aiden Butler, chief executive of 1st/Racing, which runs the Preakness. "We could say, don't worry about [the Belmont]. But we have a really good relationship with both Churchill and NYRA [New York Racing Assn.]. It hasn't always been the case.

"The Triple Crown Inc. is a thing we own between the three of us. So, you would want to be thoughtful and mindful. Sometimes it's a little unfair on NYRA because it's not that crazy an event unless there is a Triple Crown in play. It means most of the time they have to carry the burden of that third leg. But when they get the possibility of a Triple Crown winner it boosts the whole ecosystem of the Triple Crown."

Is the Stronach Group, of which 1st/Racing is a part, in favor of change?

"Our company is straight down the middle," Butler said. "A lot of them want to do it, a lot of them don't."

JULIO CORTEZ Associated Press

MAGE won the Kentucky Derby and finished third in the Preakness but will not take part in the Belmont Stakes, the final leg of the Triple Crown, on Saturday.

Though trainers hold enormous sway in when and where a horse runs, it's ultimately the owner's decision. And again, it's the "T" word that comes up.

"It's a sport built on tradition," said Gary Fenton, managing partner at Little Red Feather Racing. "I would keep it. You aim for the Derby and if you don't get into the field, you have another big race right behind it. If I were a race track, I could see where they might want to change it. But as an owner, keep it the same."

Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert has won two Triple Crowns and 17 Triple Crown races, so it's no surprise he likes things the way they are.

"We've thought about that but it's very important [to make it difficult] because that's what makes the Triple Crown," Baffert said in Baltimore the day before winning the Preakness with National Treasure. "A lot of people don't run their horses back [in the Preakness]. You have to remember, we run them a lot just to get them into the Derby. I think [trainers] would run them back if they felt their horses came out of it well. The Derby can be 20 horses, so if you get a rough trip, they need that extra time to come back."

Another Hall of Fame trainer, Shug McGaughey, a self-proclaimed "traditionalist" while saying he would be open to new ideas, falls back on what's worked so well all these years.

"No matter who you are, you've got to open your eyes a little bit to what's going to be best for racing and best for the horse," McGaughey said. "I mean, I think it is exciting and throws a little intrigue into it, with these horses having to run back in two weeks. And usually with that, we get some decent horses that haven't run in the Kentucky Derby."

The only remaining connection to the race is the jockey, and the answer is similar to the trainers.

"I like everything," said Victor Espinoza, who won the Triple Crown aboard American Pharoah in 2015. "I don't think it should be changed at all. It's been done for many, many years and it's why not many horses have won a Triple Crown. It requires an incredible and amazing horse to win it and it should stay that way."

For now, it seems as if racing would be happy just to have a few horses run all three races.

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 7	THU 8	FRI 9	SAT 10	SUN 11
DODGERS	at Cincinnati 4 SNLA	at Cincinnati 9:30 a.m. SNLA	at Philadelphia 4 SNLA	at Philadelphia 1 SNLA	at Philadelphia 10:30 a.m. SNLA
ANGELS	CHICAGO CUBS 6:30 BSW	CHICAGO CUBS 6:30 BSW	SEATTLE 6:30 Apple TV+	SEATTLE 7 BSW	SEATTLE 1 BSW
GALAXY	at Salt Lake* 6:30				at St. Louis City 10 a.m. Ch. 11
LAFC	ATLANTA 7:30 Apple TV			at Houston 5:30 Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY				at Washington 4 BSSC	
SPARKS			CHICAGO 7 Ion		

Shade denotes home game. *U.S. Open Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
9:30 a.m.	Oakland at Pittsburgh	**TV:** MLB
4 p.m.	Dodgers at Cincinnati	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
4 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at New York Yankees	**TV:** MLB
6:30 p.m.	Chicago Cubs at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830, 1220
BASKETBALL: NBA FINALS		
5:30 p.m.	Denver at Miami, Game 3	**TV:** 7, ESPND
COLLEGE SOFTBALL: NCAA WORLD SERIES		
5 p.m.	Championship finals, Game 1, Oklahoma vs. Florida State	**TV:** ESPN
COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD		
4:30 p.m.	NCAA outdoor championships, from Austin, Texas	**TV:** ESPN2
GOLF		
4 a.m. (Thu.)	DP World Tour, Volvo Car Scandinavian Mixed, first round	**TV:** Golf
SOCCER		
3 p.m.	Copa Libertadores, Internacional at Nacional	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
4:30 p.m.	NWSL, Challenge Cup, Orlando at N.J./N.Y. Gotham FC	**TV:** CBSSN
5:30 p.m.	Copa Libertadores, Fluminense at River Plate	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
7 p.m.	International friendly, Guatemala at Mexico	**TV:** KFTR, UniMás
7 p.m.	Canadian Championship, CF Montreal at Vancouver FC	**TV:** FS2
7:30 p.m.	MLS, Atlanta United at LAFC	**TV:** Apple TV **R:** 980
7:30 p.m.	Copa Libertadores, Sporting Cristal at The Strongest	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
TENNIS		
11:15 a.m.	French Open, men's quarterfinals	**TV:** Tennis
3 a.m. (Thu.)	French Open, men's doubles final	**TV:** Tennis

Sparks fall to Storm after leading by 21

SEATTLE 66
SPARKS 63

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Jewell Loyd had 25 points and eight rebounds, and the Seattle Storm rallied from a 21-point first-half deficit to beat the Sparks 66-63 on Tuesday night.

Seattle (1-4) avenged a 92-85 road loss to the Sparks on Saturday night with the second-largest comeback win in franchise history.

With the Sparks down three points late in the fourth quarter, forward Nneka Ogwumike blocked a shot with 20 seconds left and headed down the court for a reverse layup attempt, but it was blocked by Storm center Ezi Magbegor. Seattle secured the rebound and ran out the clock.

Loyd became the third player in Storm history to reach 4,000 career points. Ogwumike had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Sparks (3-3).

Also Tuesday, the Sparks re-signed guard Karlie Samuelson to a contract for the rest of the season. The team signed Samuelson to a hardship contract May 18.

WNBA STANDINGS

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	Pct.	G B
Las Vegas	7	0	1.000	–
SPARKS	3	3	.500	3½
Dallas	3	3	.500	3½
Phoenix	1	3	.250	4½
Seattle	1	4	.200	5
Minnesota	1	6	.143	6
Eastern Conference				
Team	W	L	Pct.	G B
Connecticut	6	2	.750	–
New York	4	2	.667	1
Chicago	5	3	.625	1
Washington	3	3	.500	2
Atlanta	2	3	.400	2½
Indiana	1	5	.167	4

STORM 66, SPARKS 63

SPARKS (63)—Clarendon 2-5 0-0 5, N.Ogwumike 7-13 8-10 22, Hamby 2-8 2-2 6, Brown 5-10 2-2 15, Canada 4-7 2-2 11, Stevens 2-8 0-0 4, Clouden 0-0 0-0 0, Cooke 0-3 0-0 0, Kar.Samuelson 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 22-56 14-16 63.

SEATTLE (66)—Magbegor 4-9 4-6 13, Nurse 0-4 0-0 0, Russell 0-2 0-0 0, Loyd 5-18 13-14 25, Turner 3-8 0-0 6, Fankam Mendjiadeu 1-1 1-2 3, Horston 7-15 0-0 14, Dojkic 2-3 0-0 5, Melbourne 0-3 0-0 0, Whitcomb 0-5 0-0 0. Totals 22-68 18-22 66.

SPARKS	**24**	**14**	**10**	**15—63**
Seattle	**6**	**29**	**17**	**14—66**

Three-points goal—Sparks 5-15 (Brown 3-5, Clarendon 1-1, Canada 1-2, Kar.Samuelson 0-1, Cooke 0-2, Hamby 0-2, Stevens 0-2), Seattle 4-20 (Loyd 2-8, Dojkic 1-2, Magbegor 1-2, Horston 0-1, Melbourne 0-2, Whitcomb 0-2, Nurse 0-3). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Sparks 33 (N.Ogwumike 11), Seattle 37 (Magbegor 10). Assists—Sparks 19 (Canada 5), Seattle 10 (Loyd, Magbegor 3). Total Fouls—Sparks 21, Seattle 22. A—7,840 (15,354)

PGA merger with LIV proves tour shamelessly hypocritical

[**Plaschke,** from B10] with several taking to social media to share their disbelief.

"I love finding out morning news on Twitter," Collin Morikawa tweeted.

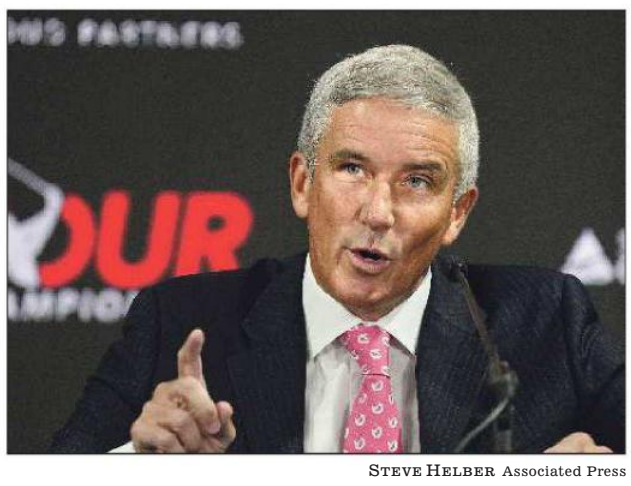
The shock is real. The questions are obvious.

LIV Golf was once ripped for allowing the Saudis to use their billions to "sportwash" their history of human rights violations.

But now, the PGA Tour is shamelessly grabbing money from that same sewer?

"The game of golf is better for what we've done here today," the sellout Monahan said to CNBC.

LIV Golf's most famous member, Phil Mickelson, was once ripped by his colleagues for being an opportunist who grabbed at the Saudis' guaranteed money with no concern for their immoral history.



STEVE HELBER Associated Press

PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan, once an outspoken critic of LIV Golf, now is its partner.

But now, Mickelson is the game's biggest winner?

"Awesome day today," he tweeted.

Sad day. Ugly day. This merger looks like a drive into the woods. It feels like a missed two-foot putt.

It's unsightly and unexpected and just so ... unnecessary.

The PGA Tour didn't need to do this. The PGA Tour had LIV on the ropes. When is the last time you watched a LIV event? Have you ever even seen a LIV event?

Few were watching the rogue tour, even fewer were regularly following it, there was no buzz, scant coverage and almost zero interest.

LIV had dwindling sponsors, dying support and there was a good chance its members soon would have been lining up for a return to the PGA Tour.

Then a couple of weeks ago, one of the LIV golfers, Brooks Koepka, won the PGA Championship, four other LIV players were in the top 20, 17 LIV players were in the event, and the PGA Tour got scared.

It worried it soon wouldn't have the best golfers.

It worried that more would follow Koepka and the money. It panicked and grabbed for the same cash that it once had treated as dirty.

There are those who will applaud this merger because golf fans don't care about politics, they just want to see the world's best golfers, and this move will allow that to happen again.

But here's the thing — if the PGA Tour had just waited, it could have enjoyed the influx of returning stars but without the Saudi stain.

A year ago, Monahan said, "When someone attempts to buy the sport ... I doubt that's the vision any of us have for the game."

On Tuesday, he just allowed the Saudis to purchase the sport.

A year ago, commenting on 9/11 families expressing their outrage against LIV golfers for betraying the United States, Monahan told CBS, "As it relates to the families of 9/11 ... I would ask any player that has left ... have you ever had to apologize for being a member of the PGA Tour?"

On Tuesday, it was Monahan and the PGA Tour who owed the sports world an apology.

Sorriest shank ever.

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 ∷ LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Rookies wading through growing pains

Outman and Vargas have had highs and lows as regular starters for the Dodgers.

By Jack Harris

CINCINNATI — On a day the Dodgers had no formal batting practice and no organized team drills, three players still raced around the field at Dodger Stadium before Sunday's game against the New York Yankees.

One was Chris Taylor, the only veteran of the group taking a few pregame grounders at shortstop before starting at the position later that night.

The others were the Dodgers' two regularly starting rookies, Miguel Vargas and James Outman — both putting in extra time with the coaching staff, both trying to accelerate their learning curves after up-and-down starts to their first full major league seasons.

Since the beginning of the year, Vargas and Outman have been fixtures during such pregame exercises.

Vargas will rotate around the infield almost every day,

[See **Rookies,** B6]

CINCINNATI 9
DODGERS 8

Bullpen crumbles against Reds

The Dodgers give up three runs in the ninth and suffer their third consecutive loss. **D6**

Rendon returns, speaking bluntly

Back in lineup, he says team that's been bad 'for so long' has to hit better and win more.

ANGELS 7
CHICAGO CUBS 4

By Sarah Valenzuela

Anthony Rendon had been on the bench, watching as his team bumbled around .500 over the last three weeks. The Angels entered Tuesday's matchup with the Chicago Cubs at 31-30.

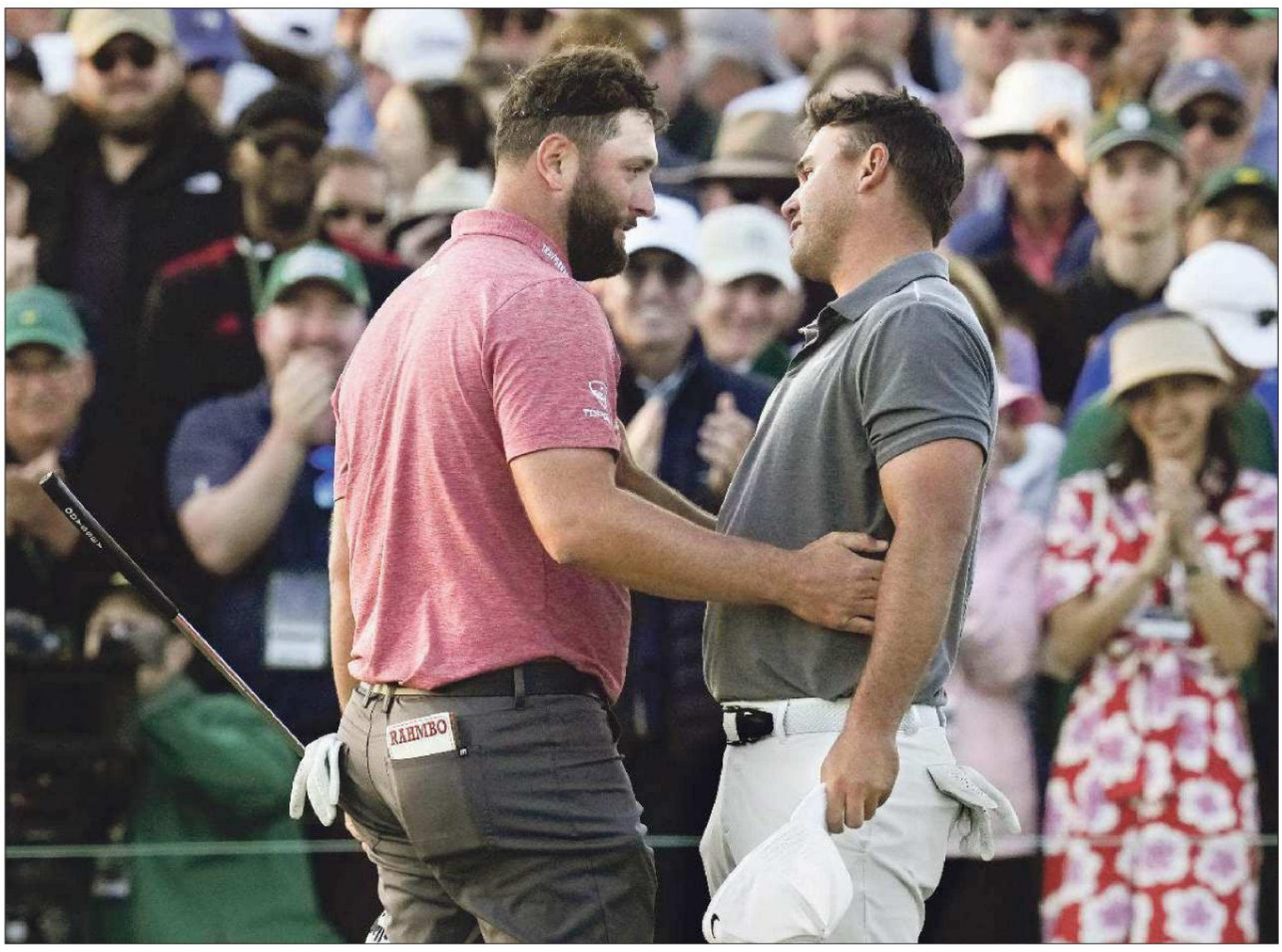
Reinstated from the injured list before the Angels' 7-4 win, Rendon answered earnestly when asked whether his team feels heightened pressure to produce more wins and catch up in the standings.

"No, not really," said Rendon, who went 0 for 2 before being replaced in the field in the sixth inning for load management. "Because to be honest, this organization sucked for so long. We haven't made the playoffs in a long time and I take that burden too, even if I wasn't there for those years.

"I came into this organization and I want to win and we all want to win. That's what everyone wants to tell you. There's no extra pressure. We just need to win now."

It has not been all bad. Through their struggles, like

[See **Angels,** B8]



Mark Baker Associated Press

JON RAHM, left, and the PGA Tour were winners over Brooks Koepka and LIV Golf at the Masters in April. But when Koepka won the PGA Championship last month, Bill Plaschke writes, the PGA Tour panicked and pivoted toward this week's merger with LIV.

PGA embraces hypocrisy, swings to reach the green

Turnabout to LIV deal proves tour stands on principal, not principle

BILL PLASCHKE

A year ago, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan used two words to describe the rogue LIV Golf league.

"It's an irrational threat," he said. "One not concerned with the return on investment or true growth of the game."

On Tuesday, the PGA Tour had another word for the Saudi Arabia-backed business.

Partner.

In a stunning act of hypocrisy unmatched even in the mercenary world of professional sports, the PGA Tour has joined forces with its moral enemies in announcing a unification with the same LIV Golf whose presence had been constantly condemned by every PGA Tour member with a soapbox and a sermon.

A year ago, Monahan said LIV defectors should examine their moral compass.

"It probably is an issue for players that chose to go and take that money ... and I think you'd have to be living under a rock to not know that there are significant implications," Monahan said.

On Tuesday, he crawled under that same rock, announcing that not only would Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund buy into the merger, but it also would become a premier tour sponsor.

Yeah, basically, Saudi Arabia now owns golf.

The next time you spend a Sunday afternoon curled up on the couch watching the dramatic end of a PGA Tour event, understand it has been bought by a country with no free speech, no religious freedom and a history of discriminating against women.

The next time you watch Jon Rahm or Scottie Scheffler being interviewed after a round, understand that their paycheck is partially generated by a country that murdered Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

"This is a historic day for the game we all know and love," Monahan said in a statement.

More like knew and loved.

The sudden change in the spineless PGA Tour's position caught its own players by surprise,

[See **Plaschke,** B9]

David J. Phillip Associated Press

PHIL MICKELSON, the biggest name to leave the PGA for LIV, gave the merger a thumbs-up, tweeting "Awesome day today."

PGA Tour, Saudi-backed LIV Golf to merge

Sam Farmer writes in a commentary that we've seen the celebration and next comes the fallout from the shocking news. **A1**

Triple Crown format seems to be off track

No horse has run all three races since 2019, which has some asking if change is necessary.

By John Cherwa

It's a discussion that happens every year. Horses spend five months preparing for the Kentucky Derby, running three prep races, or maybe just two. Then when it's Triple Crown showtime, they are asked to run three races in five weeks.

Most say no. This year, not one horse will run in all three races. The last horse to run all the legs was War of Will in 2019.

Ideas have been floated to run the Kentucky Derby in May, the Preakness Stakes in June and the Belmont Stakes in July, or some other formula that allows more time between races. Many of those in the racing industry, when faced with the idea of change, would just as soon wrap their arms around Tevye in his horse-drawn wagon and belt out a rousing version of "Tradition."

Yet faced with a year like this, when the Kentucky Derby came up two horses short of a full field and the best one on the sideline, a Preakness Stakes that could generously be called mediocre and Saturday's nine-horse Belmont Stakes considered the best field of them all, it's legitimate to ask if the current Triple Crown format is obsolete.

"I don't think it's ever good to stick your head in the sand and say never," said Kate Tweedy, who as the daughter of Secretariat owner Penny Chenery Tweedy, is Triple Crown royalty. "It's important for the sport to improve itself. I'm in favor of changes that move us in that direction.

"Horses are much more lightly raced. They used to

[See **Triple Crown,** B9]

John Minchillo Associated Press

WAR OF WILL, second from left, was the last horse to run in all three Triple Crown races in 2019, which has prompted discussions about the schedule format.

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 ⁘ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

THE TEAM: Maggie Mackay, the foundation's executive director, center; store founders Cathy Tauber, left, and Patty Polinger.

New generation of Vidiots

The beloved movie rental store returns, now with a theater. Its focus: the future.

BY MARK OLSEN

When the Santa Monica video store Vidiots, which had become a local cultural institution, closed in February 2017, founders Patty Polinger and Cathy Tauber had their doubts as to whether the store would ever rebound. Opened in 1985, the beloved rental shop had a collection of more than 50,000 titles on various media formats that was put into storage, potentially never to be publicly available again.

"I didn't really think it would," said Tauber, reflecting on whether the store could bounce back after years of financial struggle with the rise of emerging streaming services. "I know that was the plan from the beginning, but I think by the time we shut down, I was so worn out and exhausted from trying to keep the business going and all the negativity and struggle. It was really hard to imagine this was really going to happen. Of course I hoped it would, but we were just way burnt out by the time we were closing down."

RICO TORRES Warner Bros.

OPENING-MONTH screenings in the Eagle Theatre include "Selena."

Tauber sat recently with Polinger in the comfy and inviting theater space of the revived Vidiots, which just reopened. Besides a video store, the newly renovated complex at the Eagle Theatre in Eagle Rock includes a 271-seat movie theater, a beer and wine bar, and a smaller micro-cinema space that can also be used for community and educational programs.

"It has been such a transformation and such a huge endeavor, with so many obstacles along the way," said Polinger. "It's really a miracle that we're here."

Both Tauber and Polinger acknowledge that the new beginning would not be possible without Maggie Mackay, executive director of the Vidiots Foundation since 2016 and main initiator of the reopening plan. For two years after the Santa Monica store's [See **Vidiots,** E2]

He's back with plenty to say

In a new Netflix docuseries, Arnold Schwarzenegger reflects candidly.

BY STUART MILLER

Lesley Chilcott directed a one-hour documentary about the greatest bodybuilder in history. She directed another about one of Hollywood's most successful action stars ever. And then there's a third about one of the most surprising political careers in recent decades. The fact that all three are about Arnold Schwarzenegger is a reminder of just how remarkable his life story is.

The three-part docuseries titled "Arnold" premieres Wednesday on Netflix and comes on the heels of his first TV show, "FUBAR," also for the streamer. The documentary shows everything from his unbearably pumped up body in the 1970s to the endless body count of films like "Conan the Barbarian," "Terminator" and "Commando" (and his forays into comedy, like "Twins" and "Junior") to his achievements on environmental policy as California governor between 2003 and 2011. It also features interviews with director James Cameron, who worked with him on the "Terminator" franchise and the action film "True Lies," and former costars Danny DeVito, Linda Hamilton, Jamie Lee Curtis and Sylvester Stallone.

The famously forward-looking Schwarzenegger, 75, looks back at his life and multiple careers in the series. And unlike in "Pumping Iron," the 1977 documentary about professional bodybuilding that helped propel [See **'Arnold,'** E3]

Paramount Pictures

'Transformers' breaking down

Mechanics of the film franchise's seventh installment come off as rusty. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

Putting the move on that groove

Seal and his producer recount recording his signature hit 'Kiss From a Rose' and why Brits aren't so hot at soul music.

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

Dressed in a baggy green flight suit, his fingernails painted black, Seal squared himself behind a microphone in a Van Nuys rehearsal studio and bobbed his signature bald head as his five-person band wound its way through the intro of his song "Fast Changes."

The airy, intricately rhythmic folk-soul tune is hardly the best known track from Seal's self-titled 1994 LP, which sold 4 million copies in the U.S., earned a Grammy nomination for album of the year and spun off the Hot 100-topping "Kiss From a Rose."

But on a recent afternoon, the 60-year-old British singer was prepping for a tour meant to commemorate the three decades since he broke out with his 1991 debut (also titled "Seal") and its smash follow-up.

Thus the deep cut. [See **Seal,** E6]

SEAL is set to play the Greek in L.A.

The Oriel Co.

Caitlin Reilly found her memes to an end

Her TikTok takes on L.A.'s least likable helped the comedian break into television.

BY BEATRICE HAZLEHURST

"Meghan Markle is an actress, and that's the difference," claims Caitlin Reilly of the duchess' divisiveness, as lunch arrives. "She has a pageant personality."

In front of Reilly is an — admittedly — sad-looking spinach omelet, a single slice of whole-wheat toast on the side. "This looks *so* good," the 33-year-old coos, flashing a grin indiscernible from her more cloying online characters. She's such a good actor, I don't know whether to believe her.

Open since 1993, Swingers Diner on Beverly Boulevard is only six years Reilly's junior. The actor-comedian frequented the diner as a teen while attending Immaculate Heart in Loz Feliz, the same high school that educated Markle six or so years earlier. Her father — a soap star from the southside of Chicago, and mother — a Swedish model-turned-entrepreneur — conceived Reilly "in a science lab" in the '80s. It's a particularly L.A. origin story, made more so by a childhood in the wealthy enclave of Hancock Park, where homes sell for a median price of $4.1 million. Oscars nights were a family affair, watched with Pink's [See **Reilly,** E6]

AN APPRECIATION

He taught us to pay attention

Beloved Bay Area artist Jim Melchert was also an inspiring Berkeley professor.

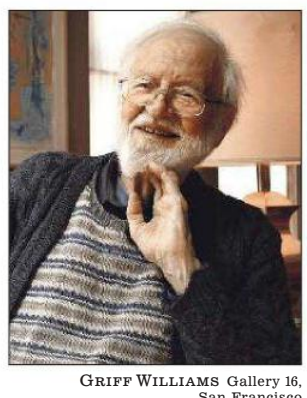
By Sharon Mizota

In 1992, I took an art class in narrative forms at UC Berkeley. The instructor was Jim Melchert, then in his 60s and a central figure in the Bay Area art community. Our primary medium in the class was the photocopy. Every week, we each made an artist's book with enough copies for each student to have one.

Near the end of the semester, Jim (we never called him "Professor Melchert") invited our small class over to his house for dinner. Video artist Bill Viola was in town and screened one of his works. Afterward, buoyed by conviviality, a few of my classmates and I drove around all night, talking and smoking. On the day of our last class, the driver from that night presented the ashtray from his car, overflowing with cigarette butts: gross, yes, but a narrative form we made together, catalyzed by Jim.

Throughout his career, Jim remained open to serendipity. He created elegant, conceptually driven work in clay, film, photography and performance, where he embraced experimentation, play and improvisation. Unfailingly friendly, he was beloved and respected as a teacher and mentor, but his skills extended beyond the studio and the classroom. He was the first artist to serve as visual arts program director for the National Endowment for the Arts, and later served as the director of the American Academy in Rome. Jim passed away at the age of 92 on June 1 at his home in Oakland of complications from a stroke. He is survived by his three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

James Frederick Melchert was born on Dec. 2, 1930, in New Bremen, Ohio. The third and youngest son of Rev. John Carl Melchert and Hulda Egli, he graduated with a degree in art history from Princeton University in 1952. Declaring himself a conscientious objector during the Korean War, he was given alternative service teaching English in Sendai, Japan, where he lived for four years. There he met and married Mary Ann Hostetler, the daughter of Mennonite missionaries. They had two sons before moving back to the United States in 1956 so he could pursue a master of fine arts in painting at the University of Chicago. Mary Ann passed away in 2005.



Griff Williams Gallery 16, San Francisco

JIM Melchert mastered painting and ceramics.

In Chicago, Melchert was introduced to Abstract Expressionism, the dominant American style of painting at the time, although he worked in a representational style, mostly still lifes. After graduating, he became the only art instructor at Carthage College, where he was also required to teach ceramics. To keep ahead of his students, Melchert enrolled in a summer class in Missoula, Mont., taught by Peter Voulkos, who was then radically reshaping ceramic art in an Abstract Expressionist mode. Voulkos made such an impression that in 1959 Melchert became his studio assistant, moving his young family to California, where Voulkos taught at UC Berkeley. Melchert earned a second master's degree in ceramics there.

In the early 1960s, Melchert taught ceramics and sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute and immersed himself in the Bay Area art scene, befriending artists such as Carlos Villa, with whom he once shared a studio, Manuel Neri, Nathan Oliveira and Joan Brown. Through Voulkos, he also made connections in the L.A. ceramics world, including John Mason, Henry Takemoto and Michael Frimkess. Melchert's early ceramic work combined qualities of Abstract Expressionism with the eclectic, figurative impulses of the emerging California Funk movement. His sculptures from this time look like whimsical industrial castoffs or colorful yet mangled theatrical masks, toeing the line between objects and bodies, abstraction and figuration. In 1964, he joined the art faculty at UC Berkeley, where he taught until his retirement in 1994.

In the 1970s, Melchert's work began to move in a more conceptual direction, influenced by concrete poetry and the work of composer John Cage. In 1972, he organized a performance called "Changes" at Hetty Heisman Studio in Amsterdam, in which he and a group of Dutch artists each dunked their heads in a bucket of wet clay slip and sat on a bench as the slip dried and cracked, becoming a kind of living sculpture.

In 1976, Melchert left the Bay Area for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., where he strengthened and diversified grant programs supporting artists and nonprofit art spaces. He returned in 1981, but three years later was tapped as director of the American Academy in Rome, where he served until 1988.

His travels around the Mediterranean led to his interest in ceramic tiles, a preoccupation that lasted for the rest of his life. He was fascinated by the myriad ways a tile cracked when broken, learning from a physicist that the resulting lines and fissures happen where molecular bonds were the weakest. He produced numerous works in tandem with these cracks, creating abstract designs on broken tiles that could resemble constellations, sound waves or flowers. He continued making these works and exhibiting until very recently; the last artwork posted on his website is "Shards 2," dated 2021-22.

It was in Jim's class that I first felt the inkling that there was more to being an artist than simply expressing yourself. It was also about paying attention — looking closely and curiously — and being open to where it might take you. In a 2020 interview with Constance Lewallen for the Brooklyn Rail, Melchert said of his broken tile works, "Like rivers will take the path of least resistance, so will the energy shooting through a tile. ... It's a wonderful thing, that you can just liberate something from a material. I loved that."

Films for the future

[**Vidiots,** from E1]
closure, Megan Ellison's Annapurna Pictures paid for storage of the collection and supported the foundation while new plans were put in place. Mackay has led an ongoing capital campaign that has raised more than $2 million, much of it during the pandemic.

The ambitious new Vidiots space, with programming planned for seven days a week, is looking to insert itself into the already lively repertory screening scene around Los Angeles, serving audiences in a radius around Eagle Rock that includes Highland Park, Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Atwater Village, Pasadena and other nearby neighborhoods that have a deficit of screening options.

With the combined theater space and video store — now with over 60,000 titles thanks to the acquisition of other collections — Vidiots is hoping to become a hub for a community that it is both newly rejoining and in a sense creating on its own.

"We want to cross cultures and cross age ranges and get butts back in seats," Mackay said. "And there's a way to do it and make it affordable and equitable and not just for one small segment of a community. This is a space to build the next generation of people who will love movies. And they shouldn't just come from households where movies are a thing. They should come from the households where people don't think about movies. That's how you get the next generation. It can't just be handed down. It has to be something that's open. It has to be a party that everybody's invited to."

A YOUNGER AUDIENCE

Vidiots' reopening coincides with a moment when audiences for repertory screenings around the city have been trending younger, belying doubts about the future of theatrical moviegoing in the era of streaming. And a number of venues have already been pulling audiences eastward, away from the Westside and Hollywood.

The American Cinematheque has been programming at the Los Feliz 3 while the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood undergoes renovations. Screenings at the 2220 Arts + Archives space have been drawing sellout crowds. There is much anticipation as to when the Vista Theater, now owned by Quentin Tarantino, will reopen.

Each local venue — including the Cinematheque, the Academy Museum, the UCLA Film and Television Archive and the New Beverly Cinema, as well as the Laemmle art-house chain and independent theaters such as the Lumiere Cinema — draws unique audiences. Vidiots is looking to slip into a slot of its own, a family-friendly, teen-and-tween-welcoming environment for movie lovers of all stripes.

The first day of programming began with Disney's 1973 animated "Robin Hood," at which some young attendees were seeing their first movie in a theater. An afternoon event with filmmaker Fox Maxy was presented in conjunction with a UCLA Film and Television Archive program celebrating Indigenous cinema. The day wrapped up with a sold-out show of the L.A.-set, cautionary A.I. classic "Terminator 2: Judgment Day."

Other films screening in June include "Selena," "The Harder They Come," "RRR," "Love & Basketball," "The Slumber Party Massacre," "In the Mood for Love," "The Last Dragon" and "Desperately Seeking Susan," as well as an evening of the unedited concert footage of punk bands the Cramps and the Mutants playing at a California psychiatric facility in 1978 along with a documentary short on the notorious show. A celebration of June weddings will include "Monsoon Wedding," "The Wedding Banquet" and "Bride of Frankenstein." A July program presented by the Museum of Home Video will feature an eerie selection of doorbell-cam footage.

Among those supporting the Vidiots project as founding members are a number of local creative couples, including actor-directors Katie Aselton and Mark Duplass, producer Mette-Marie Kongsved and Elijah Wood, and podcaster Karina Longworth and filmmaker Rian Johnson. Individual supporters include actor and director Lake Bell, Oscar-winning animators Phil Lord and Chris Miller, producer Nate Moore, "White Lotus" star Aubrey Plaza and musician Sharon Van Etten.

A few weeks before the opening of the new Vidiots complex, things were still coming together. A small crew was shooting an introduction video that will play before every screening and will be periodically swapped out. This first one will feature founding members Ify Nwadiwe and Noah Segan, as well as one of Mackay's children and a few young friends.

Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

EARLY CUSTOMERS Nick Morano and Sofia Ciraulo study the Vidiots rental offerings.

Between shots, Nwadiwe, a comedian, actor and writer, spoke about how he became involved with Vidiots. He has helped in putting together a program for this month to celebrate Juneteenth.

"What is very important to me is the fact that it's a community," said Nwadiwe, who lives nearby and is looking forward to bringing his 7-year-old daughter. "I could have thrown a check and let them do their thing. But one of the beautiful things about a space like this is being involved and really making this a hub for not only movie lovers but also filmmakers and creators where we can also meet and commune. Who knows what can come out of just having so many great minds in one place?"

An actor and filmmaker who recently made his feature directing debut with "Blood Relatives," Segan lives with his wife, writer and producer Allison Bennett, and their two young children in the neighborhood. Segan was among those who first noticed when the for-lease sign appeared on the Eagle, which opened in 1929 as the Yosemite Theater and has been through many incarnations through the years, including phases as an adult theater and a church (not at the same time).

"We moved to Eagle Rock because we loved that this is a historic and diverse and artistic and friendly place in Los Angeles," said Segan, who regularly went to the original Vidiots when he lived in Venice. "And it represents a lot of the things that we love about the city as a whole."

The ethos of bold curiosity and discovery at the original video store has been transferred to the new store and theater space, engendering what Segan called "a safe place to figure it out."

"It really does feel like this total misfit thing has grown into an incredibly wholesome, positive, productive space," said Segan. "That's I think what everybody kind of wants. And if that's what the legacy is, we're all going to feel really good at the end of the day."

WHOLLY COMMITTED

More than anyone, Mackay has held the flame for Vidiots during the long process of finding, renovating and opening the new space. She had a long career in various film jobs around Los Angeles, including programming for the Los Angeles Film Festival and working behind-the-scenes on the Spirit Awards. But she had no prior experience with fundraising before signing on with Vidiots, driven by a commitment to the mission behind the old store.

"I will be truthful and say I'm not sure that I would or could have any inclination to raise money for something other than Vidiots," Mackay said. "It's the thing that I can believe in so much that I can ask people to go down that rabbit hole with me. And it's not just about asking for money, it's about asking for hours and time and expertise and artwork and help and emotional support, especially through the pandemic."

Though Polinger and Tauber won't be pulling shifts in the video store like in the old days, they are on the board of the Vidiots Foundation and remain involved in the project. Mackay said they provided an essential beacon as the project to open the new space moved along.

"I wouldn't have kept going had Patty and Cathy not been really involved," Mackay said. "Their involvement is as much emotional as it is anything else. Every time I started to totally lose faith in this and just think, like, 'What have I done?' I call Patty and Cathy and am instantly reminded why we're doing this and instantly reminded of who I was as a kid when I needed a space like Vidiots. And so every time I start to lose hope, they are my center."

As Tauber and Polinger walked through the new store shortly before opening, Mackay pulled out a portfolio of ads from the original store, highlighting the availability of films such as "El Topo," "Sullivan's Travels," "The Long Good Friday" and "Picnic at Hanging Rock." One ad read, "If you have called your video store looking for Fellini and their reply was 'the Italian restaurant moved,' then Vidiots is for you."

Technical director Boris Ibañez was upstairs in the theater's projection booth overseeing installation of the digital projection system. An old-school 35-millimeter system, provided by filmmaker Jason Reitman, is also being installed, with a goal of being up and running by August.

Ibañez left a job as a technician and operations analyst with AMC Theatres to work for Vidiots and, like many involved in the project, felt himself drawn to it by the sense of commitment, community and legacy.

"Am I really going to leave my corporate 10-year job for this?" Ibañez recalled asking himself. "I believe in the vision, so I decided to do it.

Ever since Vidiots signed the lease for the Eagle Rock space in late 2019 — their new landlords happen to be former Vidiots customers — there has been a growing sense that the old space in Santa Monica was more than just a video store. The ambitious new project looks to further fulfill on the promise of bringing people together via a shared love of the movies.

"It feels really good that our previous goodwill somehow created this. It's amazing seeing our legacy propelled forward," Polinger said. "The collection is so important and the mission is so important.

"I want access to films that people can't see via streaming," said Polinger. "And I want conversation around film, and I want young people to be excited about film and be able to converse and discuss and turn other people onto it."

"We had this community in Santa Monica, and that's what I miss most," Tauber said. "And that this is just on a way larger scale is really overwhelming."

For the revitalized Vidiots, anything seems possible.

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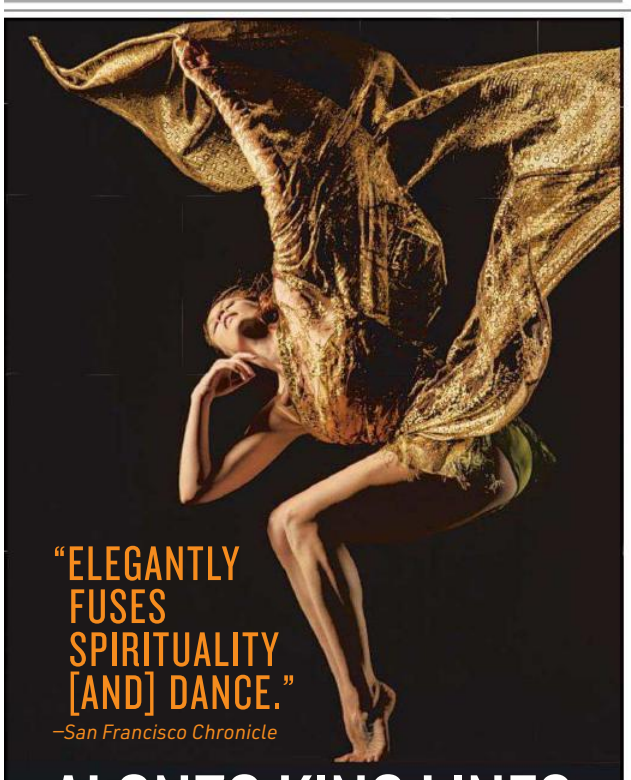

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
PADRE PIO R 4:20 PM
RISE 1:00 4:00 7:00
WHITE BALLS ON WALLS 1:00 3:10 7:30
CHILE '76 (1976) 1:30 7:20
CONCERNED CITIZEN 5:25 PM

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
FALCON LAKE 1:30 7:20
FOLLOW HER 4:30 PM
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30
MASTER GARDENER R 1:00 7:00
BLACKBERRY R 1:10 4:00 7:00
IT AIN'T OVER PG 1:20 7:20
L'IMMENSITÀ 4:10 PM
THE MELT GOES ON FOREVER: THE ART & TIMES OF DAVID HAMMONS 1:20 7:10
THE LITTLE MERMAID 4:00 PM
MONTRÉAL GIRLS 4:20 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
PADRE PIO R 4:30 7:20
ABOUT MY FATHER PG-13 12:55 3:10 5:20 7:30
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:10 4:00 7:00
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER PG-13 1:20 7:10
IT AIN'T OVER PG 1:30 4:20

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
THE BOOGEYMAN PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:30
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 1:00 4:00 7:10
ABOUT MY FATHER PG-13 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:15 4:10 7:00
THE MACHINE R 1:20 4:20 7:20
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 4:15 PM
FAST X PG-13 12:50 4:00 7:10
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:55 6:40

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 1:00 4:00 7:10
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 12:50 3:55 7:00
THE MACHINE R 1:30 4:20 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 12:50 3:05 7:30
MOON GARDEN 5:15 PM
SANCTUARY R 1:20 4:30 7:20

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
THE BOOGEYMAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 1:00 4:00 7:10
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 12:50 3:55 7:00
THE MACHINE R 1:10 4:20 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:30
SANCTUARY R 1:20 4:20 7:20+
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 1:00 4:00 6:55

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
THE BOOGEYMAN PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:30
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 12:55 4:00 7:10
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:10 4:10 7:00
THE MACHINE R 1:20 4:30 7:20
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

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MOVIE REVIEW

‘Transformers’ begins to sputter out

‘Rise of the Beasts’ adds animal-looking robots to the usual car-looking robots.

By Katie Walsh

Paramount Pictures

ELENA (Dominique Fishback) and Noah (Anthony Ramos) star as an archaeologist and Army veteran.

‘Transformers: Rise of the Beasts’

Rating: PG-13, for intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence, and language
Running time: 1 hour, 57 minutes
Playing: Starts Friday in general release

The “Transformers” film franchise, spawned in 2007 with Michael Bay’s “Transformers,” was one of the first straight-faced blockbusters based on a toy (and an ’80s cartoon series). It is now, astonishingly, seven films deep with the release of “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts,” which is both a prequel to “Transformers” and a sequel to 2018’s “Bumblebee,” set in 1987. “Rise of the Beasts,” set in 1994 Brooklyn, is also based on the “Transformers: Beast Wars” media franchise of comic books and anime that introduced the Maximal characters, alien robots that look like giant animals, not shape-shifting cars.

Got all that? It’s OK if you don’t, because the screenplay, by Joby Harold, Darnell Metayer, Josh Peters, Erich Hoeber and Jon Hoeber, with a story by Harold, will repeat the pertinent information ad nauseam until you never want to hear the phrase “trans-warp key” ever again. The basics are as such: A giant, planet-eating dark god known as Unicron needs a gleaming key that has been hidden by the Maximals (reminder, those are the beastie bots) in order to gobble as many planets as he’d like, Earth included. What does the key do? Honestly, who knows, it’s just the necessary thingamajig over which the primary players can fight over for two hours.

When aspiring archaeologist Elena (Dominique Fishback) accidentally uncovers half of the key hidden in an ancient Incan bird statue and triggers the beacon, the benevolent Autobots, stranded on Earth and led by Optimus Prime (Peter Cullen), send their new human friend Noah (Anthony Ramos) to retrieve it. Noah, an Army vet looking for work to support his sick younger brother, got caught up with the Autobots while trying to boost a snazzy Porsche, the Autobot Mirage, voiced by a surprisingly lively Pete Davidson. Thus, the two kids from Brooklyn have to team up with the Autobots to prevent Unicron and his minions the Terrorcons — including a particularly nasty one known as Scourge (Peter Dinklage) — from feasting on Earth and destroying the planet. Crashy-crashy action ensues.

The Michael Bay “Transformers” movies brought an almost fetishistic approach to auto bodies; he is a filmmaker who understands machines better than human beings. In the first couple of films (his five-film run suffered from wildly diminishing returns), there was a certain sensory satisfaction in all that was shiny and chrome, the clicks and whirs of metallic pieces sliding into place with an almost ASMR-like tingle. Though his camera’s gaze at star Megan Fox was icky and leering at best, his approach to the mechanic spectacle of the Autobots was undeniably sensual.

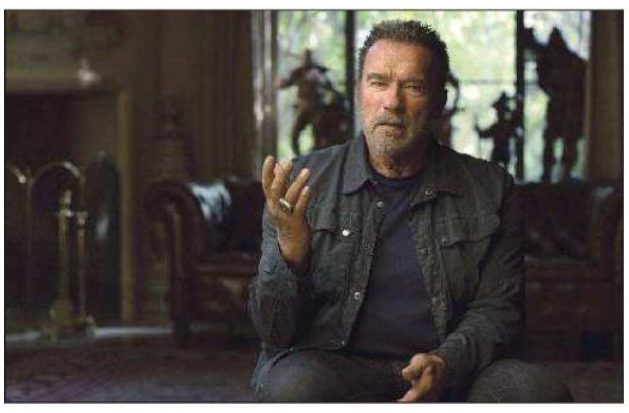
In “Bumblebee,” director Travis Knight and writer Christina Hodson went for cutesy and kiddish, riffing on ’80s teen movies and turning the yellow Transformer into a cuddly golden retriever type, infusing the series with a sense of heart. Now, “Rise” director Steven Caple Jr., who has the gritty indie film “The Land,” and the boxing sequel “Creed II” under his belt, has to establish himself as an artist within this sprawling blockbuster franchise. He doesn’t go all in on tugging heartstrings or mechanophilia, as his strengths lie in establishing a sense of place and time. The best parts of “Rise of the Beasts” are Caple Jr.’s evocation of 1990s New York City, the soundtrack pumping with classic East Coast hip-hop including the Wu-Tang Clan, the Notorious B.I.G., LL Cool J and Black Sheep.

Too bad the movie takes place predominantly in Peru, where Ramos and Fishback run around tracking down artifacts and codes in some half-baked Indiana Jones subplot and attempting to express real emotions about their new Transformers pals. Stoic Indigenous Peruvians look on while the Autobots, Terrorcons and Maximals face off on a dusty, gray volcano (thankfully, there’s only minimal damage done to Machu Picchu), in some of the most visually uninspired and shallow action sequences of the franchise.

All the while, Optimus Prime repeatedly intones some form of “protect the key,” “get the key,” “we need the key.” It took five screenwriters to come up with this utter nonsense that has all the dramatic intrigue and emotional depth of a “Transformers” Saturday morning cartoon. “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts” feels like a film that is at war with itself as Caple Jr. tries to balance character work with the profoundly silly Autobot lore, which talents such as Michelle Yeoh dutifully recite (she voices the eagle bot Airazor).

Unable to rise above this internal conflict, it’s a film that’s both dull and disposable. Though it sets up the opportunity for more interconnected franchise filmmaking, this is a beast that needs to be put down.

Katie Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.



Netflix

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER opens up about his storied multifaceted life in a new Netflix docuseries.

Nothing ‘off the table’ for ‘Arnold’

[**‘Arnold,’** from E1]

him to fame, it centers completely on him. For “Arnold,” Schwarzenegger sat for hours of interviews to discuss, between puffs of cigars, many of his accomplishments and his failings too — most infamously, the dissolution of his marriage to Maria Shriver after she learned he’d had an affair, and a child, with their housekeeper, Mildred Baena. The revelations came after a Los Angeles Times investigation in 2011.

The documentary also touches on the groping accusations by several women who came forward in a 2003 investigation by The Times when Schwarzenegger was running for governor of California during the recall election, which he eventually won. He denied the allegations at first, but later gave a speech where he said, “I have behaved badly sometimes.” In the documentary, he speaks more plainly: “Forget all the excuses. This was wrong.”

Carla Hall, one of The Times reporters who worked on the story, was interviewed as well. In the documentary, she says that when the story ran, “people were really angry at us. People immediately accused us of holding the story until five days before the election.” But she says that’s how long it took to report the story and that more tips flooded in afterward. “Personally, I was surprised that it didn’t have more of an effect on the election,” she says.

Both Chilcott and Allen Hughes, the executive producer of the series, have worked on several documentaries over the years. Chilcott was a producer on the Oscar-winning film “An Inconvenient Truth” and “Waiting for ‘Superman,’ ” and she most recently directed a series about the Manson family, “Helter Skelter: An American Myth,” and the film “Watson” about Paul Watson, the founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. “Arnold” is the second docuseries that Hughes has worked on this year — he also executive produced “Dear Mama,” a five-part series about Tupac Shakur for FX. They spoke recently in separate video interviews about making the docuseries. The interviews have been edited for length and clarity.

‘Arnold’

Where: Netflix
When: Anytime
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17 with advisories for smoking, sexual violence references and coarse language)

What drew you to this project?

Hughes: It’s an incredible journey and the ultimate immigrant story. Also, I was struck by how Arnold has dealt with challenges after the first 30 years of his career were just win, win, win.

And “Conan the Barbarian” blew me and my brother away when we were 9 or 10, so I was a fan of his films, but when I found out he was a Republican I had mixed feelings about him. There’s so much complexity there. He’s a great character so I knew it would be a rich story.

That third episode about his political career was the reason why I did the film. One talent I wasn’t aware of is his willingness to hear the other person’s side of things. I’ve seen him do it in real time with me. He may not agree, but he opens his heart and mind and he may change his mind.

Schwarzenegger’s voice dominates the proceedings. Did he seek to control the topics or the editing?

Chilcott: There are a lot of documentaries now where the star commissions the project, but Arnold did not have editorial control. What was important to me was that no topic was off the table and we hit all of his popularly known failures or controversies.

This seemed to be the right time in his life, where he knew he needed to talk about things and was willing to do it. He seemed to understand that, “I’m going to be remembered for my successes but people remember the failures too.”

Hughes: I said to him, “For this to resonate with people, you don’t have to love it, you just have to respect it. If you love it, it’s probably not good.” He understood from the get-go. He took 100% accountability; he made no excuses. **He is somewhat reflective about his affair and the end of his marriage but less so about other topics, ranging from his heart surgery [he’s had three total] to movies like “Batman & Robin,” which he counted among his successes. [“Batman & Robin” was considered a box-office disappointment when it was released in 1997 and was poorly received by film critics.]**

Hughes: The challenge with Arnold is that he doesn’t look at struggle as struggle. It wasn’t because he was trying to avoid it, it’s just not how he’s wired. He’s not a guy who gets down or depressed. And it’s just not his nature to wallow. His tolerance for pain was so high. He talks about forced reps and you don’t start counting reps until it’s hard and painful. He talks about that in life too.

Chilcott: He’s revealing who he is by being that way. I was very happy that he was as candid as he was, like when he talked about his body breaking down. The rest of us are always complaining about not being in shape but imagine being “The Body” and then getting older. That’s a big thing for him to address.

Obviously, he made some huge errors in judgment, but when you have a wonderful kid from an affair, you can’t say the words “I made a mistake.” I wanted to show why he’s reluctant to talk about these things — it’s because he doesn’t want to keep hurting his family.

Did you try getting Maria Shriver to participate?

Chilcott: I was on the fence about it. There were plenty of clips from her out there. I did try to get her and we had some conversations but she declined.

Letting him talk and talk with minimal pushback can create false impressions of history. His views of Ronald Reagan’s presidency and the ’80s and the violence in his movies lack any nuance. Were you concerned?

Chilcott: It was Arnold’s world; he’s narrating the story of his life. We tried to make it clear it’s his point of view. You mentioned “Batman & Robin” — he rewires everything to see everything as a success. That’s who he is.

He really thought Reagan was it — he had a Reagan poster on his wall. He believes the whole American Dream thing in his core.

You devote plenty of time to his years as governor, which is ultimately the most important part of his legacy. You focus a lot on his environmental policies but I was surprised to learn about his appointments of women and minorities and non-prosecutors as judges and about his establishment of open primaries and redistricting. But I wanted more depth there. Did you think about devoting more time to his policies and politics as he moved away from the right toward left of center?

Chilcott: It’s a good point. I agree. I asked for another episode but at that point it was way too late. He won reelection largely because he did work on infrastructure, which is not sexy to talk about in a documentary, and he reached across the aisle and did political reform like redistricting. That was a very big challenge. But there was so much and it couldn’t just become a laundry list so we talked more about his governing style.

Schwarzenegger has remained outspoken on political issues — you show him promoting the COVID vaccine, sending an anti-Putin message to Russian citizens and soldiers over YouTube, and condemning the Jan. 6 insurrectionists. But among Republicans, he also has been a major critic of Donald Trump, which you never mention. Why not?

Chilcott: We talked about it but it was just a factor of screen time — there are so many things to talk about.

Hughes: He is talking about preserving democracy. He talks about growing up in Austria and those men coming home from the war on the losing side and he talks about broken men and the terrible ideology and being on the wrong side of history. And he talks about his father and he talks about abuse and violence.

It was our job to connect what he was born into and why he’s uniquely positioned to speak about preserving democracy. I felt, “Let’s not name Trump. He’s just a symptom of something bigger. He’s not the thing.” When Arnold talks about preserving democracy, he understands it because he’s from the other side of it. And it’s an eternal struggle.

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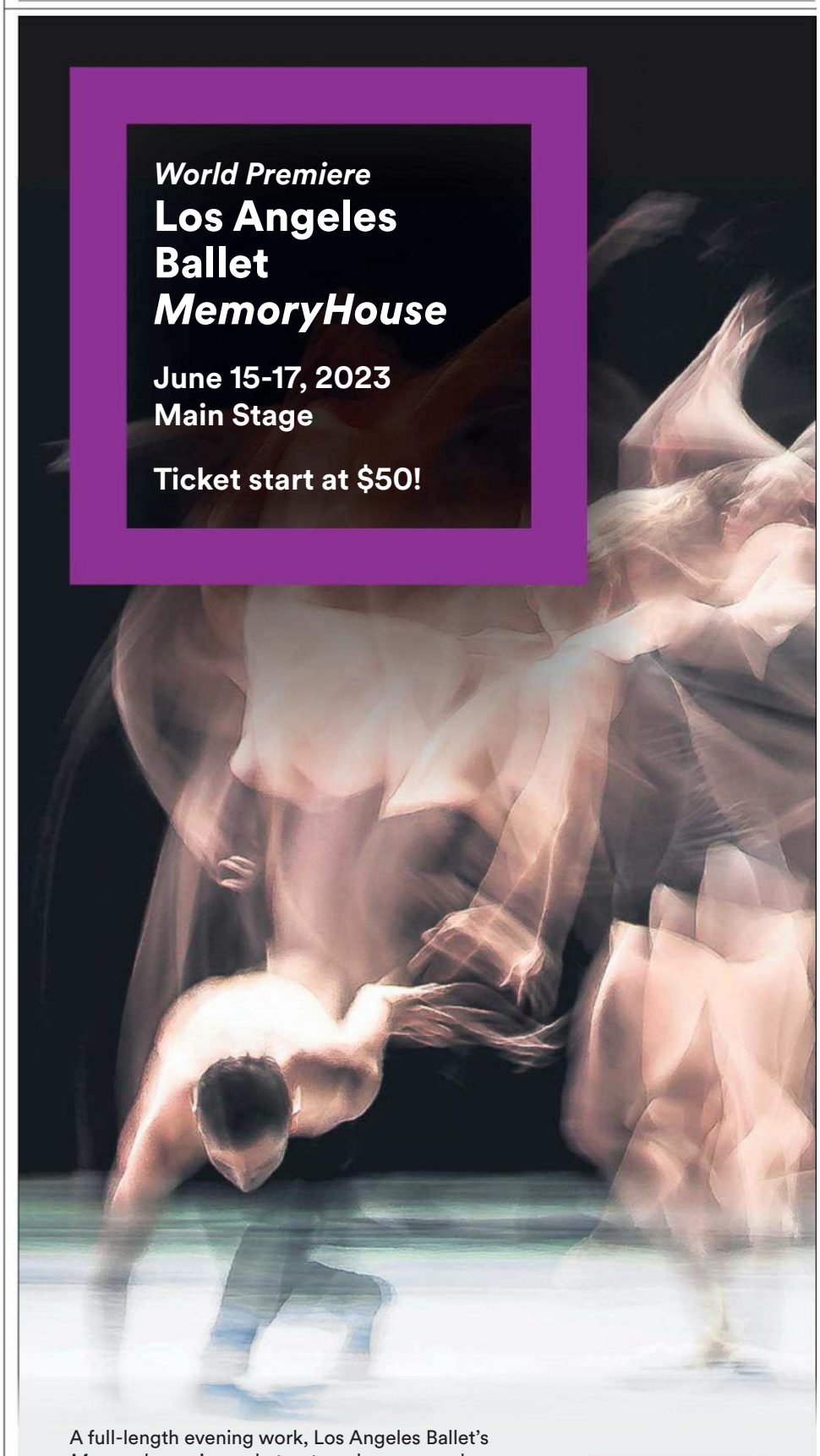

A full-length evening work, Los Angeles Ballet’s *Memoryhouse* is an abstract work composed of vignettes commemorating World War II and in particular, the Holocaust. Set to Max Richter’s powerful album of the same name, *Memoryhouse* will reflect on both the somber as well as more heroic moments that illuminate this period in human history.

broadstage.org

Los Angeles Ballet thanks Barak Ballet for making *Memoryhouse* possible.

broadstage

COMICS

SUDOKU

	9							
4	6			7			5	1
						9	7	
6			1					
1		8	7		2	3		9
					8			4
	2	3						
	5			1			3	7
							8	6

Level: Moderate

5	1				
			6		
		1			4
4					
		2			
				3	5

Level: Gentle

5	3	7	2	4	8	9	1	6
1	2	4	6	3	9	8	7	5
9	6	8	5	7	1	4	3	2
3	1	9	4	8	6	2	5	7
8	7	6	3	5	2	1	9	4
4	5	2	9	1	7	3	6	8
2	9	3	7	6	4	5	8	1
7	4	1	8	9	5	6	2	3
6	8	5	1	2	3	7	4	9

1	3	5	6	2	4
2	4	6	1	5	3
6	5	4	2	3	1
3	1	2	4	6	5
5	2	1	3	4	6
4	6	3	5	1	2

6/7/23

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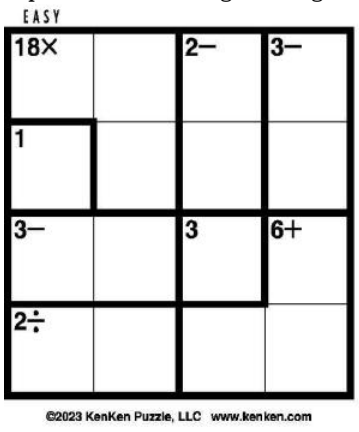
Solutions to Tuesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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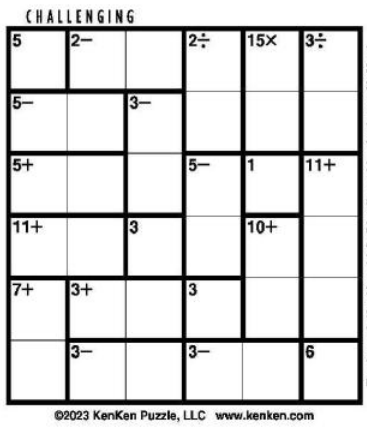
CHALLENGING



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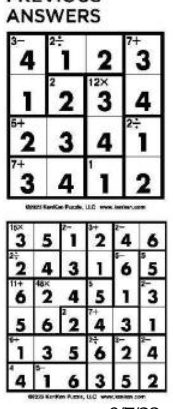
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



6/7/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): People with complementary talents are coming into your realm. Your open mind will see creative ways to work together.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Having trouble going with the flow? What if all you have to do is choose not to resist? There's something to let go of, then you'll be one with the current.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You'll be surprised by the education you get today and you'll be a quick study, making the most of instruction and improving as you go.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The good and bad ideas will come in the same idea. Like reversible sweaters, if one way clashes, you just have to turn them inside out.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Go where you're likely to experience peace and quiet and you'll accomplish something remarkable.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are wide awake and so you will understand the rules of the game, whether stated or implied.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): When working on self-love is difficult, try loving someone else. When loving someone else is difficult, give love to yourself.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): The best deals will be a natural fit, rendering negotiation unnecessary. As for the others, just walk.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Today, you'll work at something meaningful to you, and happiness will suddenly set up shop within your heart.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Silences smile or condemn; they lift, they bury. You can fall in love with a certain kind of silence — and you will.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aesthetics will matter to the outcomes of the day, especially things like lighting and architecture.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Whatever you believe to be true, you'll really see how the opposite could also be true. You're not being wishy-washy; you're being fluid.

Today's birthday (June 7): You're like a country and you have your own language and laws, culture and aesthetic. You will love who takes the time to learn and assimilate into the country of you. Your empathy and compassion become even stronger, leading you to new opportunities for connection and growth. More highlights: strong energy around a book, a plot twist in your family story and a significant health goal reached. Aquarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers: 1, 2, 28, 14 and 41.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Jared Goudsmit

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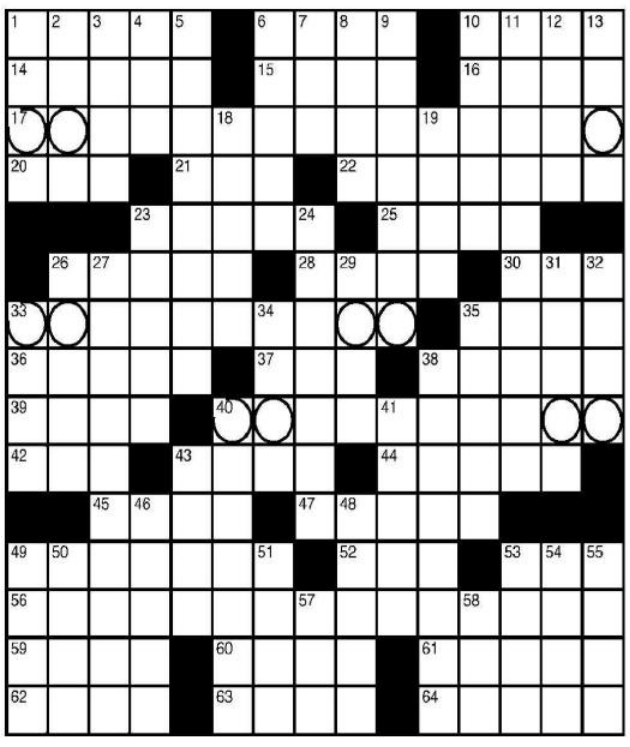

ACROSS

1 "Ray" Oscar winner Foxx
6 Beef or pork
10 Hon
14 Sicily's country
15 Make one's mark?
16 Skills barometer
17 Über-genius
20 Pound pts.
21 __ Vegas Raiders
22 Puts on clothes
23 Oily compound
25 Banh mi spread
26 Michael of "Alfie"
28 Distant
30 New Deal pres.
33 National Historical Park in Boston that commemorates a 1775 battle
35 French father
36 Clothesline alternative
37 In the vein of
38 "Philadelphia" or "Chicago"
39 Stratford's river
40 Prominent feature of many a Jimi Hendrix song
42 Tender in Tokyo
43 Washed-out
44 Used a prayer rug
45 Actress __ Rachel Wood
47 Billionaire financier George
49 Where to watch Kings battle Senators
52 __ goo gai pan
53 Prosecutors, for short
56 Classic grade-school lunch, and what's literally found in 17-, 33-, and 40-Across?
59 "Supposing that's true ... "
60 Disney film featuring light cycles
61 The Scales of the Zodiac
62 Come off as
63 Cab
64 And the following, in footnotes

DOWN

1 "__ Dreams of Sushi": documentary about a Japanese chef
2 Encyclopedic in range
3 PC alternatives
4 Sort
5 Cosmetics item
6 Argentine soccer superstar Lionel
7 Space-saving abbr.
8 Low-pH substance
9 The "T" of BTU
10 Brandt of "Breaking Bad"
11 Mid-2000s comedy tour featuring Ahmed Ahmed and Maz Jobrani
12 High-pH substance
13 CPR-performing team
18 Become pointed
19 Within a stone's throw
23 Compare
24 Newsstand spread
26 Learning __
27 "Who's next?"
29 Unfizzy
31 Get sidetracked
32 Snorkeling locale
33 Party time, casually
34 Heist loot
35 Skin openings
38 Mime played by Bill Irwin on "Elmo's World"
40 Media giant that owns USA Today
41 Ohio birthplace of LeBron James
43 Apt rhyme for "sprain"
46 Race car sound
48 Muscat citizen
49 Hieroglyphics bird
50 Bistro
51 Actress Sedgwick
53 "I claim that!"
54 Land division
55 "Inside the NBA" analyst, to fans
57 Fenway team, briefly
58 Clever one

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	N	L			B	A	R	E	S		B	L	O	B
T	I	E		T	A	H	I	T	I		L	A	H	R
U	N	C	L	E	S	A	M	C	O	S	T	U	M	E
B	A	T	O	N	S			H	U	E		R	A	W
		U	N	T	I	L	N	E	X	T	T	I	M	E
F	A	R	E	S		O	E	D		T	R	E	A	D
E	V	E	R		A	G	I		E	L	I			
Z	E	D		U	N	O	G	A	M	E		P	E	A
			E	N	D		H	S	T		R	O	A	D
R	U	I	N	G		D	E	E		F	A	S	T	S
U	N	S	O	L	V	E	D	C	R	I	M	E		
M	R	I		U	I	E			O	N	E	I	S	H
B	E	T	W	E	E	N	Y	O	U	A	N	D	M	E
L	A	S	E		W	I	E	S	E	L		O	U	R
E	L	O	N		S	E	W	O	N			N	G	O

6/7/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

I suppose snooze alarms are one of those things we can't do without. (Rearrange the letters in "snooze alarms" and you get "alas, no more Z's.")

It might help if an alarm sounded after the opening lead, jolting declarer awake to the necessity of thinking before proceeding. In today's deal, South opened with a lusty four-diamond preempt and was raised to game. West led a low heart, and South took dummy's ace and drew trumps.

South next cashed the A-K of clubs; he didn't want to lose a finesse to West. But West won the next club and led a spade, and East took two spades for down one.

Not many Souths would find the winning play without benefit of an alarm. South must play dummy's deuce on the first heart.

If East shifts to a trump. South draws trumps and takes the K-A of clubs. When East-West follow, South discards his jack of clubs on the ace of hearts and ruffs a club. He reaches dummy with a trump to pitch two spades on the good clubs, making an overtrick.

You hold: ♠ K 8 7 ♥ A 2 ♦ A J 3 ♣ A 9 8 4 2. The dealer, at your right, opens one heart. What do you say?

Answer: To enter the auction isn't safe, but neither is to pass; you would risk missing a game. You have options. To overcall two clubs on a ragged five-card suit is ill-advised, as is a 1NT overcall with only a single heart stopper and no obvious source of winners. Your most flexible call is a double. Let your partner suggest a possible trump suit.

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 8 7
♥ A 2
♦ A J 3
♣ A 9 8 4 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 5 2
♥ Q 9 5 3
♦ 7 4
♣ Q 10 6

EAST
♠ A J 10 3
♥ K J 10 8 6 4
♦ 2
♣ 7 5

SOUTH
♠ 6 4
♥ 7
♦ K Q 10 9 8 6 5
♣ K J 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

Opening lead – ♥ 3

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Staying out of the middle

Dear Amy: I am an older woman, retired after a long career as a counselor.

I am the oldest of five siblings. My sister is one year younger.

She is very talented, creative and generous. However, my relationship with her can often be difficult due to her bipolar disorder.

She has described herself "as mean as a snake" during her manic periods. She is medicated and has been seeing a psychiatrist for years.

She lives with her husband who is a wonderful man who drinks to excess after he plays golf most days and does volunteer work. I think it's how he manages.

My sister has had conflicted relationships with all four of her children from time to time.

There is one daughter in particular with whom she has the most problems. Perhaps they are more like each other — I'm not sure.

That daughter contacted me yesterday via text, asking me if I could give her advice for dealing with her mom.

I can't imagine how hard it was growing up with a bipolar parent. I dodged her request. I also told her that perhaps her dad could help her better than I can because he knows both her and her mom the best.

I'm very reluctant to get involved in any difficulties between her and her mom.

I love them both, but what should I do?

Confused

Dear Confused: Your sister's illness has had a profound effect on all of you. You see her positive traits; I hope you'll anchor to this knowledge and respond to your niece's request for advice.

You've dodged her, but you don't seem to know the question yet. She may need mainly to express her own frustrations or concerns.

You might be able to pass along some of your strategies for maintaining a relationship with her mother.

When people ask for advice (versus being offered unsolicited advice), they are more likely to listen intently, consider it carefully and (sometimes) follow it.

Dear Amy: When a loved one dies, who should pay for a luncheon after the service?

When my father passed away, I was in a poor financial situation (and still am).

After the service, all I wanted to do was go home and have time to myself.

I overheard several people grumbling about no after-service meal being readied for the mourners.

Why should the grieving party have to be sure that attendees eat afterward?

The family is going through enough losing someone dear to them without trying to come up with money to feed the crowd.

I feel that if attendees want a meal after the service, someone should gather others and organize something. Your thoughts?

Grieving Daughter

Dear Grieving: There is no one answer to this. Some families who have the means will cater a lunch. Other families will welcome mourners (many bearing casseroles) back to the home, where a friend or more distant family member will help to serve.

Others will meet at the corner pub to raise a glass in memory of the departed.

These gatherings can be positive experiences for family members; no doubt sometimes they are also absolutely exhausting. No matter what, you (the grieving party) were not responsible to pay for, feed and entertain people after the funeral.

The remarks you overheard were unconscionable. I'm very sorry.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"Try this on, Billy. Billy?"

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

"I DIDN'T GET DIRTY. 'DIRTY' GOT ME... AGAIN!"

FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead

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6-7
OH, YOU WANNA HAVE THAT ARGUMENT AGAIN? OK, LET'S SEE... HERE IT IS. ARGUMENT NUMBER 27. LET'S CHECK THE BOX AND CALL IT EVEN.
CHUCK AND DORIS FIND A WAY TO HAVE ARGUMENTS WITHOUT ARGUING

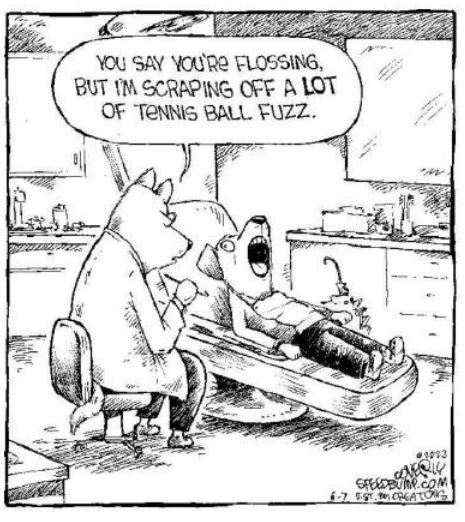
MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"Your crawling up here is bad enough, but warming four cold paws on me is too much."

BLISS By Harry Bliss

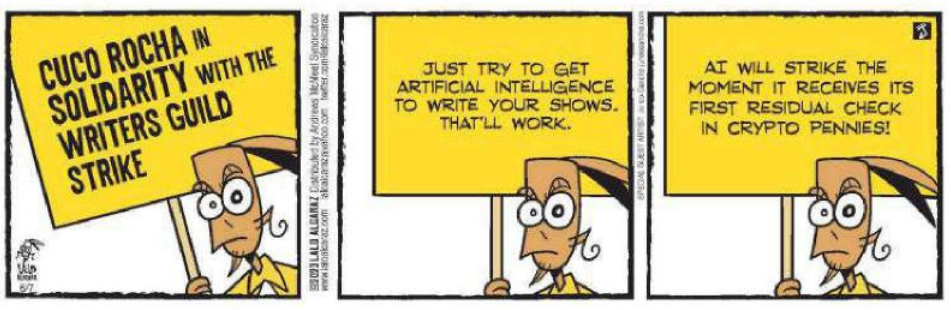
"Do you like it better when I go to the F or the Dm?"

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


CUCO ROCHA IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WRITERS GUILD STRIKE
JUST TRY TO GET ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO WRITE YOUR SHOWS. THAT'LL WORK.
AI WILL STRIKE THE MOMENT IT RECEIVES ITS FIRST RESIDUAL CHECK IN CRYPTO PENNIES!

PICKLES By Brian Crane

EARL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT BOWL DOESN'T GO IN THAT CUPBOARD.
IT GOES IN THAT CUPBOARD.
NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU GET, YOU WILL NEVER LEARN WHERE ALL THE DISHES IN YOUR HOUSE GO.

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

DUDE! THE ICE CREAM MAN ACTUALLY PLANTED A DECOY ICE CREAM TRUCK TO TRICK US!
WELL PLAYED.
WE HAVE SEVERELY UNDERESTIMATED OUR OPPONENT, KEVIN. IT'S TIME TO START THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX.
WELL, I'VE GOT A FEW IDEAS. IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GET...
ZERO DEGREES DANGEROUS!
STILL WORKING ON THAT ACTION HERO CATCHPHRASE?
I'M CIRCLING IT.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

HEY, ALEXA. WHAT'S THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN AFRICA?
THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN AFRICA IS MOUNT KILIMANJARO AT NINETEEN THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FORTY-ONE FEET.
THANK YOU, ALEXA.
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME.
TOMORROW IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE THE CHATBOT.
WE HAVE THE STINGIEST PARENTS IN THE WORLD.

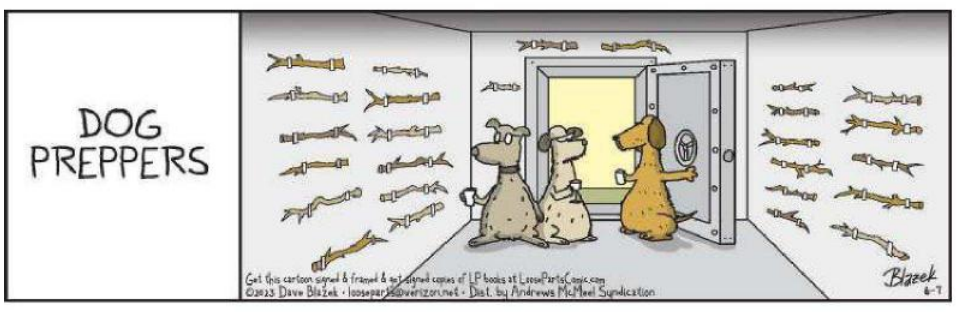
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

I THINK MY SON'S READY TO LEARN A SPORT.
WHACHOO GON' TEACH HIM, LEMONT?
NEVA SCURD
YOU GON' TEACH HIM TO BOUNCE THE BALL OFF HIS FOOT AN' CHASE AFTER IT 'FORE IT GO IN THE STREET?
OR YOU GON' TEACH HIM TO GET THE BALL SWATTED OUT HIS HAND WHEN HE TRY TO SHOOT? OR YOU GON' TEACH HIM TO MISS THE RIM AN' THE BACKBOARD ALTOGETHER?
NONE OF THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED. IN THE SAME GAME.
YOU GON' TEACH HIM TO MAKE HIS ONE AN' ONLY SHOT IN THE WRONG BASKET?

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

DO YOU STILL WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU'RE OUT IN A CROWD?
IT STILL MAKES SENSE FOR SENIORS TO DO THAT.
ABSOLUTELY...
AND NOT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY PRETTIER!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek



JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

1 KINDNESS IS KEY.
2 AMASS EXPERIENCES, NOT THINGS.
3 FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GOAT?
IN HONOR OF MY REACHING MIDDLE AGE, I'M WRITING DOWN EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED SO FAR IN LIFE. YOU SHOULD TRY IT.
I like Mexican food.
IT'S THE ONLY THING I'M SURE OF.

MACANUDO By Liniers

LIO By Mark Tatulli

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TEN DOLLARS TO MY "SUMMER OF ELMO" FUND?
"SUMMER OF ELMO"? IS THAT EVEN A THING?
OK, YOU GOT ME, MR. B. HOW ABOUT JUST GIVIN' ME THE TEN BUCKS?

ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

HOW WAS YOUR DAY, JEREMY?
GOOD. I GOT A RAISE.
ALREADY?
YEAH. PLUS WHATEVER THIS IS.
THEY GAVE YOU STOCK OPTIONS?!?
WHY DID YOU ALWAYS TELL ME THAT WORK IS HARD?

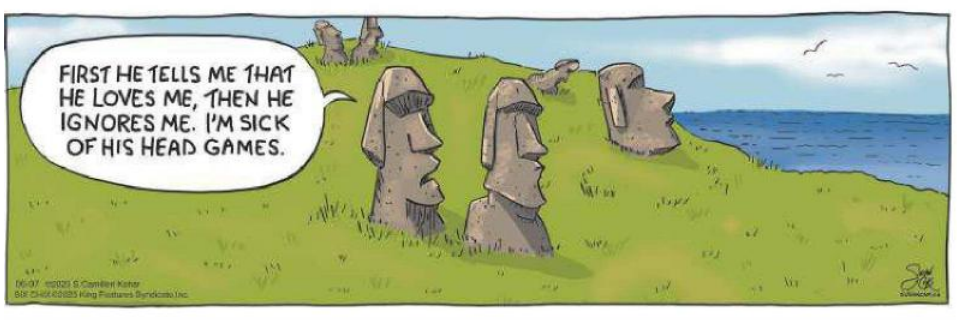
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES WITH THEIR APPOINTMENTS, SUSAN
SO YOU FORGOT A DATE... SO YOU WROTE IT IN YOUR AGENDA BUT DIDN'T CHECK IT... SO YOU DROVE ALL THE WAY TO THE ESTHETICIAN FOR NOTHING...
WELL? YOU WERE GOING SOMEWHERE WITH THIS?
I WAS, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE DETOURED

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro

SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar



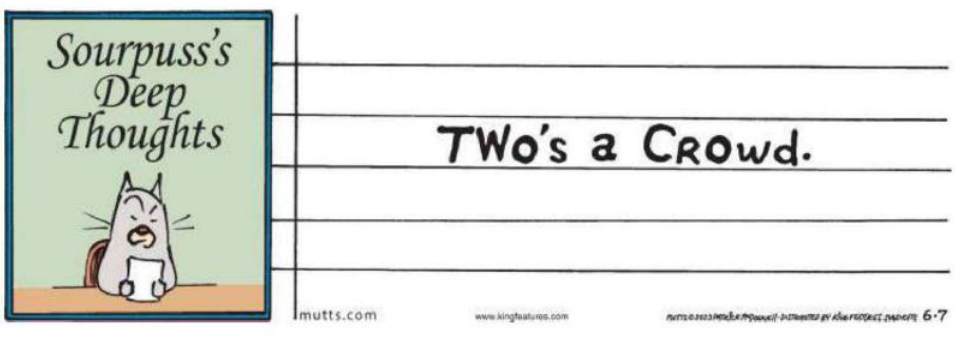
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

YOU AGAIN?? OH, ALL RIGHT.
HERE.
Soft Serve ICE CREAM
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'D MAKE THEM A LITTLE BIGGER, I WOULDN'T COME BACK EVERY 10 MINUTES!

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

HOW MUCH IS FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY DESTINY?
I'M FINE WITH HAVING TO WEAR GLASSES SOMEDAY LIKE MY WHOLE FAMILY.
BUT NOT EVERYONE HAS WHAT MY BROTHER HAS.
"NERD" IS NOT A MEDICAL CONDITION.
PLUS MY DAD SAYS YOU EITHER OUTGROW IT OR RIDE IT INTO A REALLY GOOD CAREER.

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

WHAT HAPPENED HERE, LUCY?
PETEY DOING WHAT HE LOVES TO DO
I GUESS WE SHOULD DO THE GROWN-UP THING HERE
YEAH... TAKE QUICK, DECISIVE ACTION TO RESOLVE A CRISIS, RIGHT?
OR... IGNORE IT AND HOPE IT'LL FIX ITSELF
YEP. SOMETIMES IT REALLY PAYS TO WATCH THE NEWS
WILEY

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

IF I'M GOING TO WIMBLEDON, I SHOULD FIND OUT WHERE IT IS...
I'VE ALWAYS HAD AN IDEA IT WAS NEAR KANSAS CITY...
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WIMBLEDON, IT'S IN ENGLAND
REALLY?
I WAS SORT OF COUNTING ON A LAYOVER IN KANSAS CITY...

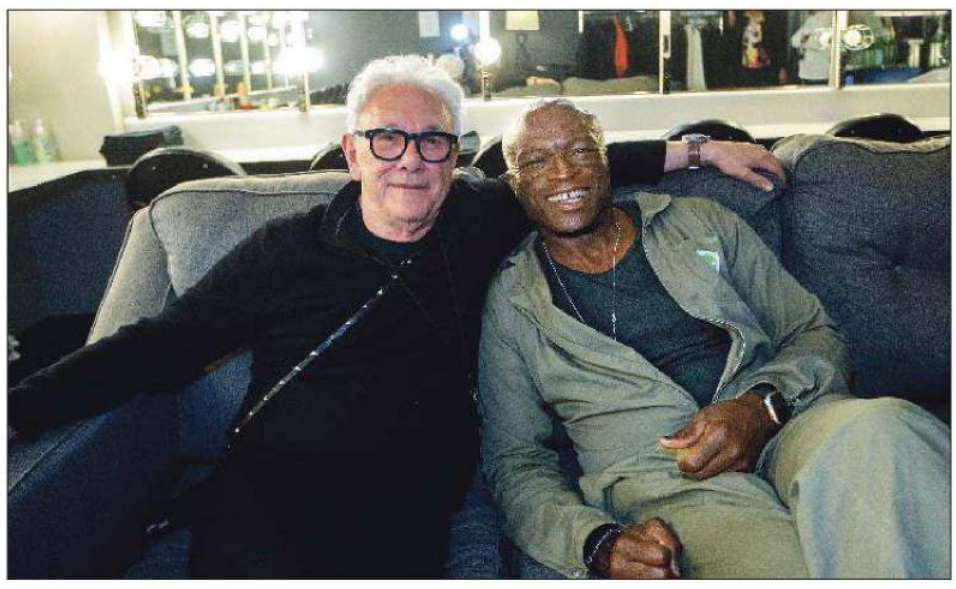
Seal on their long friendship

[**Seal,** from E1]

To listen back to Seal's first two albums, both of which he made with producer Trevor Horn, is of course to marvel at the rough-cut beauty of his voice, with its stylish rasp and its promise of a lover's tender care. Yet the records also make a prescient argument about the porousness of genre lines as they move among throbbing dance music ("Crazy"), bluesy acoustic rock ("Whirlpool"), luxurious torch-song balladry ("Don't Cry") and trippy gospel-funk ("Future Love Paradise").

For the tour, which stops Wednesday night at the Greek Theatre, Seal has reteamed with Horn, 73, who's serving as the singer's musical director and who's opening shows with his '80s new wave band the Buggles, of "Video Killed the Radio Star" fame. (Beyond his work with Seal, Horn is known for producing records by Yes, Pet Shop Boys and Frankie Goes to Hollywood.)

The two Brits, who've lived in Los Angeles for decades, sat down during a break from rehearsal to discuss their long partnership. These are edited excerpts from the conversation and from a subsequent phone call with Seal.



DON WAYNE LEWIS From Seal

PRODUCER Trevor Horn, left, and singer Seal take a break during rehearsals.

When did you first visit L.A.?

Seal: In 1990, because Trevor suggested it would be good for me to come to America to meet different musicians. Looking back now, I can see that I was actually quite narrow-minded in terms of what I thought was possible. I had this idea of making a sort of cool, clubby record that all my friends liked but probably wouldn't sell s—.

Trevor, what was your idea?

Trevor Horn: I was staying in a house in Fryman Canyon — it's George Clooney's house now, though it wasn't then. I'd managed to get a cheap deal for it because the people who owned it couldn't rent it out. So I took it, and the minute I came in, I pulled all the furniture out and completely freaked out the owners. They showed up: "What are you doing?!" I said, "I'm setting up a studio in your ballroom."

It was really to work on "Crazy," wasn't it? Because you'd worked on the song with Guy Sigsworth and got some really good synth stuff, and then we worked with Tim Simenon and we got the middle drum break. But we didn't have the record yet. I knew we were going to have to put some serious work into it, and I thought it'd be good for Seal to be here. The funny thing is, when he arrived, I tried a different approach to "Crazy." I'd done it a bit like Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Seal said, "Look at me. Do you think I could move to that track?" It was completely wrong. So we slowed it down, did a few things, and in the end, we had a great time. Some wonderful moments, 3 o'clock in the morning in the canyon. L.A.'s like that.

Where were you staying, Seal, while Trevor was at Clooney's future manse?

Horn: You kidding? He had the guest bedroom. We were all there. Then we came back to England. That was a bit of a downer.

Seal: A record sounds like the time you had making it. That's what I mean about Trevor trying to make my picture bigger and see different possibilities, whether it was the time at George Clooney's house or hanging out with some babe on Sunset or being picked up at the airport by a limousine that Trevor had sent for me, which was bigger than any f— house I'd ever lived in. It's all those experiences that actually make the record.

Horn: Seal wanted to make a kind of record that I'd never made before. So I was trying to figure out what it was and how to get it to work because it wasn't like a rock record. And it wasn't an R&B record. It had certain things that Seal was insistent on, like the groove. But the songs were all unusual. None of them were like a formula where you have a verse and then a bridge and then a chorus. It was all stuff like "Future Love Paradise." I'd never heard anything like that before.

What genre can you not sing, Seal?

Seal: If you're a singer, you just sing. I never look at a genre and go, "Oh, I can't sing that."

Country music?

Seal: Oh, I could sing country.

Horn: You'd be great at country. You were just playing me a track the other day ....

Seal: "More of You" by Chris Stapleton, which apparently isn't *traditional* country. But we're English. It sounds country to me.

On your "Soul" and "Soul 2" albums, you're mostly covering American soul songs. What's the difference between American soul music and British soul music?

Seal: I don't think we can quite do it like the Americans. I know they're not a soul band, but if you look at the Rolling Stones, for example, it's really clear where the influences come from: Muddy Waters, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, rhythm and blues. Early Beatles too. All they were trying to do is cop what the Americans did. But it never really came out like that. It came out weird.

Horn: Because we're a bit crap.

Seal: Trevor's right: We're a bit crap. Because that type of music, it's not something that you cop, it's something that you live. The thing English people had in our favor was we had a lot of what we call *neck*. We weren't afraid to have a go. If we were crap, we were wrong and strong.

Horn: Think about how much neck Mick Jagger and Keith Richards have. And they came here too. They went to Chess Studios to record [in 1964] because they wanted to get away from [producer] Norrie Paramor and Abbey Road. That's why their records sounded better than anybody's in the '60s, because they were dirtier.

The first couple of Seal albums came out amid a flowering of Black British soul music: you, Lisa Stansfield, Soul II Soul. Did you feel aligned with those acts?

Seal: Not so much, though I acknowledge that we were contemporaries for sure.

Horn: They were primarily dance acts.

Seal: Trevor and I were always trying to do something different. I remember banging on about Crosby, Stills & Nash, playing him songs like "Carry On" and telling him that I liked how they weren't linear. Trevor was like, "Yeah, but there's no reason we can't do that." I don't take that lightly, because I've worked with other producers — good producers — but they were less enthusiastic about embracing harebrained ideas.

Trevor, what did you think of the records Seal made with David Foster?

Horn: I liked the first "Soul" album. Foster's a good producer. I mean, I did like early Chicago best [before the rock band hired Foster in the early '80s]. One forgets how muso Chicago was. Once [founding Chicago guitarist] Terry Kath was gone, it all started to change.

Seal: I liked working with Foster, but we were making a record of covers. Eventually, I ended up doing a record of original material with him [2010's "Commitment"], and that didn't really work.

Have either of you ever heard anyone do a good cover of "Kiss From a Rose"?

Seal: The guy on YouTube who does the Freddie Mercury stuff [Marc Martel], he does a great one. Well, I say it's great. He can hit all the notes. "Kiss From a Rose" is a f— minefield.

Horn: I was at an awards thing, and I went to the loo while some bull— was going on. Elton [John] came out of one of the stalls and said, "I tried singing 'Kiss From a Rose' the other day. It's not an easy song to sing, is it?"

Seal: They're not the same type of song, but you know when you hear someone try to sing "Kiss" by Prince? It just doesn't work, like, ever. I'm not by any means the world's greatest singer, but I have a thing that I do, and "Kiss From a Rose" is a showcase of that. That's why people tend to come unstuck when they try it.

Seal

Where: Greek Theatre, 2700 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles
When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Tickets: $54.50 and up
Info: *ticketmaster.com*

SINGER'S SOLO

In addition to the platinum records and the Grammys — "Kiss From a Rose" won record of the year and song of the year in 1996 — Seal's success brought a level of tabloid scrutiny that only increased when he married supermodel and TV host Heidi Klum in 2005. (The couple, who divorced in 2012, share four children.) Today, Seal describes fame as something of a nuisance, though that didn't stop him from making a memorable cameo as himself in the Lonely Island's 2016 "Popstar" movie or from competing on "The Masked Singer" in 2019.

You're naked on the cover of the second Seal album and on the cover of "Human Being" from 1998. Did you think of yourself as a sex symbol?

Seal: Not for one minute. Sure, I understood that how you look and how you present yourself is part and parcel to being a good artist. I have a background in design and a little bit of architecture, and I was a tailor, so I was always very conscious of form. But my reason for being nude on a couple of album covers was to be vulnerable. It wasn't for any kind of macho reason. I was going through a bunch of stuff — low self-esteem and anxiety — and trying to work that out. I understood that back then the way to liberate myself was to be vulnerable, because once you can do that — once you can let go of all of your armor that we carry around with us — then nothing can really damage you, and therefore you achieve true strength.

But there's certainly an element of sexuality in your performance.

Seal: Performing is quite a sexual act. You're trying to get lost and you're trying to let go, and the lines between that and sex are very, very fine.

How does it feel to be looked at in this phase of your life?

Seal: It never really crosses my mind. Do I feel comfortable? Perhaps more so now. I feel at ease, I guess, as a result of that work I did earlier on. That was for me; it wasn't really for anyone else.

You seem quite conscientious of your kids' proximity to fame. Have you ever tried to steer them away from show business?

Seal: That doesn't worry me. It's an interesting life, and there are many advantages that go along with the obvious pitfalls one can succumb to in show business. But I've tried to instill in my eldest daughter, Leni, that the word "celebrity" implies that one is famous for being famous, and there's very little happiness in that. It's just so tragically empty that I could vomit.

Leni's in the public eye at the moment [as a model], and I must say that I'm really proud of her — of the way she sees it for what it is. She understands that it's a means to something else and that being famous will not give you self-worth. But the rest of my kids, they couldn't give a flying you-know-what about fame. Honestly, they've never once exhibited any kind of wow factor about anything I do. They appreciate the fact that I sing, and every now and then they'll let on that they listen to my music. But mostly, they just see me as Dad who's kind of annoying sometimes.

What else do they listen to?

Seal: They listen to a lot of Queen and a lot of the old classics that you'd be surprised. A lot of trap and mumble rap — their version of punk, which I'm not supposed to understand, let alone like.

Do you feel like you do understand it?

Seal: I understand what it's doing. It's anti-establishment, that's all it is. I don't think it's as good as punk was.

You're at a point now where you can kind of step into the limelight when you want to and then step back out of it. Earlier in your life, the attention seemed unavoidable.

Seal: The difference is that I'm not married to somebody whose career and life is basically founded on that attention. Before I got married, you never really used to see that much of me. There was a certain kind of mystery because I never went out and sought fame. I just happened to be famous. But when I got married, that whole thing became a circus, and I really detested it with every cell and fiber in my body.

Did your detesting it harm your marriage?

Seal: No, because if the two people that are married are in sync in understanding the circus, then it becomes like an instrument that you can play.

Is there anything about the circus that you miss?

Seal: Not a damn thing.

The lives of Reilly

[**Reilly,** from E1]

hot dogs in hand. The Paul Smith building is next to her chiropractor's office. A boyfriend told Reilly he would never raise children in L.A. because the city "wasn't indicative of real life." They're no longer together.

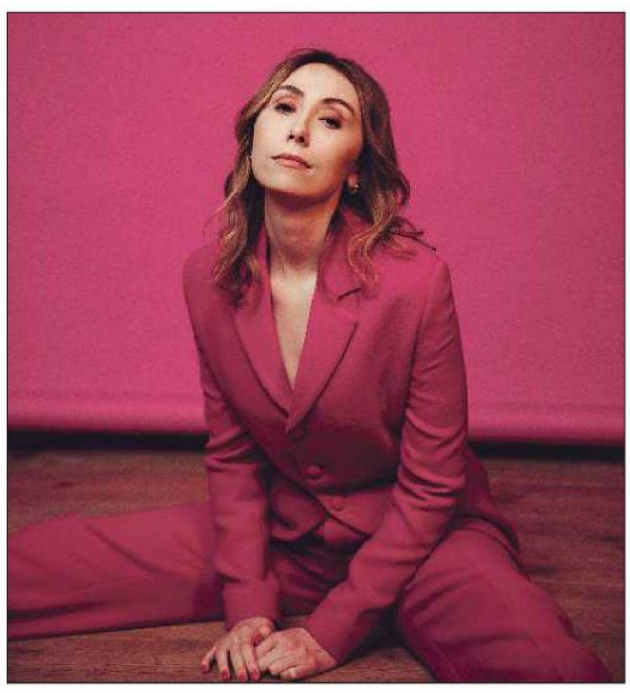
For Reilly, life in her hometown has become increasingly surreal. Parodying familiar archetypes on social media has allowed her to amass almost a billion views over the last two years, finding fans in the likes of Reese Witherspoon and securing a regular invite to elite Hollywood events. All that's missing now, she jokes, is a role on Season 3 of "The White Lotus."

It was the kind of explosion that would induce whiplash among even the most seasoned entertainers — something Reilly definitely was not. After over a decade of under-delivering agents and failed auditions, she came to the conclusion that her life needed to go in a different direction. At the top of 2020, Reilly took a "big girl" job assisting a real estate agent. When the city shut down three months later during the pandemic, she was out of work again. Worse still, her father's health was deteriorating — prompting a move back home to support the family. Reilly was 30, unemployed and living with her parents. So, she did what a lot of people in her situation would do — she created a TikTok account.

"I found this random door that I didn't know existed, and I opened it," she says. "My number one goal [when it took off] was to start going out for parts. But I was having awful impostor syndrome, like, *People only think I'm funny because they have nothing else to do. I'm a hack.*"

Ironically, one of the first jobs she booked was a part on "Hacks," the Jean Smart-led comedy on HBO. Lucia Aniello, one of the show's creators, watched Reilly's impersonation video of an "overactive listener" 10 times. Together with fellow producers, she cast Reilly as a TV executive. The role was intended for someone older, but Reilly was "too funny not to hire."

"Caitlin's hyper-specific satirization of characters manages to be laugh-out-loud funny without seeming absurdly broad — which is really hard to do," Aniello says. "She's hilarious, but in such a well-observed, grounded way."



MIKE JEZUSKO

CAITLIN REILLY is outgoing, but she says she "wakes up, lives and goes to bed with anxiety."

COMEDY CALLING

Comedy, though, was never Reilly's intended route. At school, she flailed as a kid diagnosed with ADHD who had dreams of becoming a child actor. Instead of sitting the SAT, 17-year-old Reilly decided to attend acting class and become a "serious" actor — but the industry had other plans.

"I kept getting roles where I was the funny one," she remembers. "These very character-y, insane roles. I was like, 'How come I don't have a romance scene?' *Because you're funny*."

Reilly attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she honed her technique with the help of Stanislavski and Meisner (though Method acting is reserved for "a-holes" and Daniel Day-Lewis, she quips). After graduating in 2010, Reilly took a series of odd jobs — nanny, waitress — unconsciously composing characters through osmosis. Meanwhile, she tried everything to break through, even attempting to leverage her father's career. John Reilly was best known for his role as Sean Donely on "General Hospital," but made cameos everywhere from "Melrose Place" to "Passions." Unfortunately, in her case, Hollywood's fetish for famous descendents fell short.

"As far as the nepotism aspect of the acting world, [I didn't benefit]," she says. "The only thing that happened was that my dad died, and then I was on the tribute episode for him on 'General Hospital.' " When her father died in January 2021, Reilly felt adrift. After years of running in place, the she was finally on an upward trajectory — something he'd never get to see. The juxtaposition of her newfound status against all-encompassing grief was paralyzing. "It just totally f—ed me. Any sense of structure in my life completely went away, and there wasn't a whole lot of structure."

The day she woke up to a verified blue check mark next to her Instagram handle, Reilly had a panic attack. In therapy, she realized she had spent so long identifying as Caitlin Reilly the struggling actor that actually "making it" was difficult to reconcile.

"My therapist was like, 'Who are you? I said, 'I'm an actor and I'm a comedian,' " she remembers. "I think that's the problem: there's so much importance on what you do, that you are what people see you do."

Who Caitlin Reilly is is a good cousin, she says. She loves nature, and her favorite actress is Elizabeth Olsen. She loves to make her boyfriend, a motion graphic designer, belly laugh. She is outgoing, but "wakes up, lives and goes to bed with anxiety." Social media doesn't help.

"I'm incredibly grateful and want to let myself enjoy the experience, but it's like years ago, I would never have gotten the job," she says, adding that industry events feel like attending an ex-fiancé's wedding. "That's the industry now."

Instagram, Reilly believes, has become a necessary evil for those even at entertainment's highest echelon ("Sydney Sweeney's entire Instagram is a billboard ad," she says). Her newfound visibility has only heightened the pressure. One of Reilly's latest caricatures — a battle-scarred-but-never-beaten waitress in L.A. — managed to reach its real-life source material — the waitress who inspired Reilly's character. "I genuinely think I was your server," the waitress commented.

FEARLESS AND FRESH

"I loved her, but how the f— did she [find it]?" Reilly says. "Some famous influencers who thought I was making fun of them have blocked me. I wasn't, I just happened to say things that align with what they did."

"She's fearless and confessional, her targets are fresh or fresh angles on familiar targets," echoes David Wain, the writer-director behind "Wet Hot American Summer."

Wain still remembers "the talent oozing from Reilly in every moment" when he discovered her online, wondering immediately how they might work together. He wasn't alone. Over the past year, Reilly's face seems to have graced every major streaming service. She will soon appear in Disney's "High School Musical" series, as well as a new Max show and the Darren Aronofsky-produced "Little Death" alongside David Schwimmer. Roger Ebert.com anointed her a "hot commodity" for her performance in the Apple TV+ comedy "Loot." She's also writing her own feature — "like everyone," Reilly clarifies.

"Being thrust into this internet space, I was just white-knuckling it, trying to figure out how I can do what I want to do and be true to myself," she says.

In person, Reilly emanates the same truthfulness as her characters. It's immediately clear she would rather dissect the behavior and habits of others than wax lyrical on her own. The actor self-deprecates readily — even divulging her sister advised her to fill her lips. There's no faux humility, or strategic attempt at generosity. Returning from the bathroom, Reilly appears genuinely perturbed that I paid for her omelet.

It's this authenticity that humanizes even the most oblivious of Reilly's characters. After 33 years living in perhaps the most indulgent city on Earth, she has met them, known them, and maybe even *been* them. By making them lovably unlikable, Reilly has affirmed her place in Hollywood.

Oh, and Mike White? If you're reading, "The White Lotus" would look good— *so* good — with her in it.

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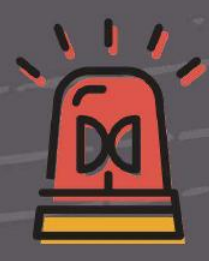

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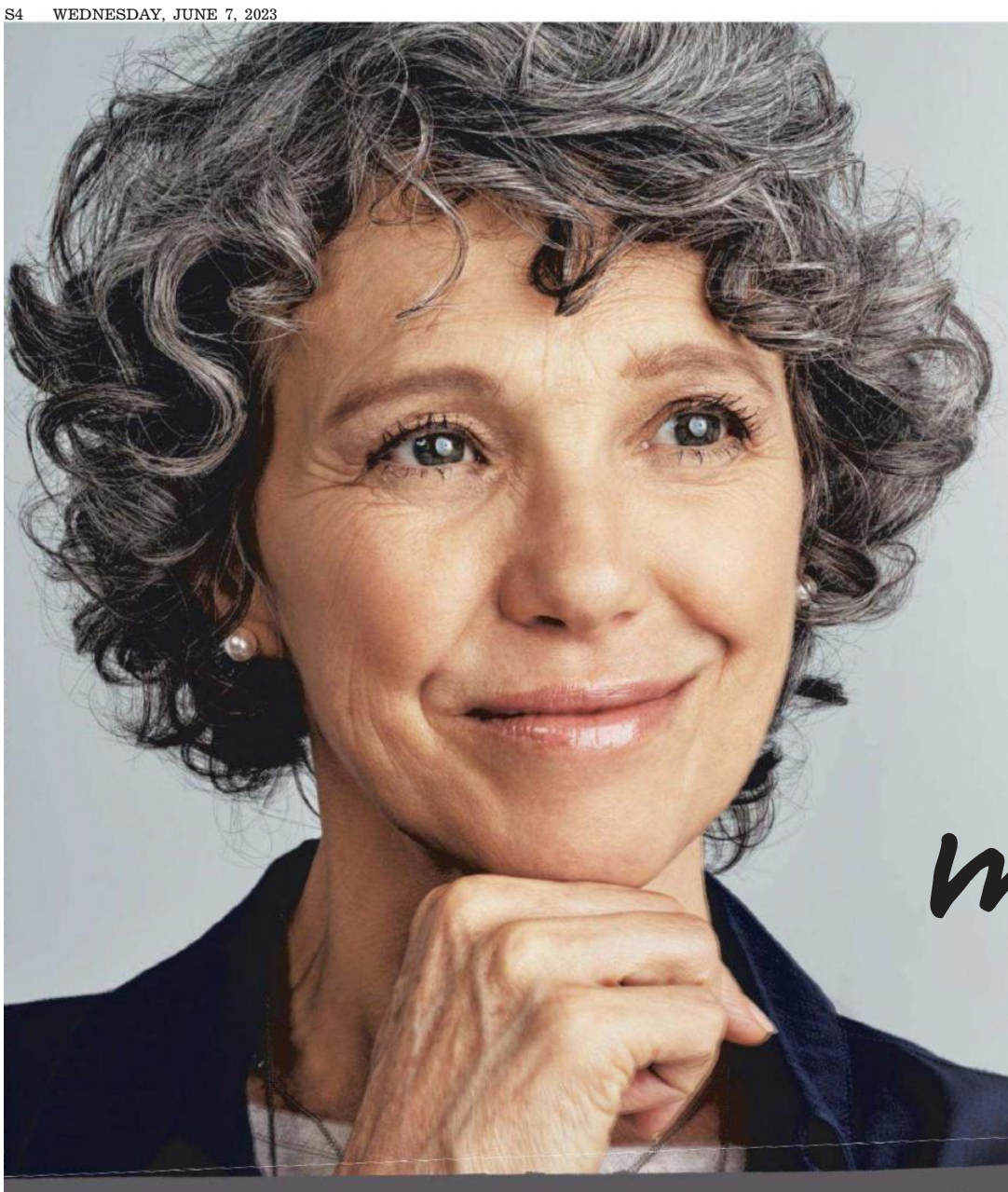

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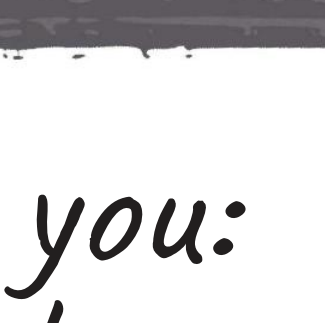

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